MRS GOODCHILD

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. UNWIN
CABINET OFFICE

Reception for Representatives of the Computer Industries

The Prime Minister has definitely decided that she would like to give a reception cum seminar for representatives of the computer industry. (This was mentioned in my letter of 16 March following her lunch with the British Computer Society.) The reception has been fixed for 2 November from 1830 to 2000.

I should be grateful if you could now provide advice on who should be invited and what form the seminar should take. The Prime Minister gave a very successful reception cum seminar for industrial innovators last year, in the preparation of which Dr. Ashworth was closely involved. The seminar might perhaps follow a similar pattern.

I am sending copies of this note to Ian Ellison (Department of Industry) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

I.P. LANKESTER

11 September 1981

Prime Minister

You have agreed to hold a reception for the computer industry. This seems a sensible format (i.e. similar to the one we had for innovators). Content?

1

Hn 0240

MR LANKESTER (No 10) Yes

PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION/SEMINAR FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRIES

Your minute of 11 September sought my advice on the arrangements for the above reception/seminar which the Prime Minister has decided to hold on 2 November.

2. I have had some preliminary discussion with the CSD (CCTA) and the Department of Industry. My outline proposals are summarised below. If these are generally acceptable to the Prime Minister I will consult further and submit detailed proposals (names, topics for discussion etc) within this framework later.

Objective

3. The primary objective of the evening should be to give the guests an opportunity to put personally to the Prime Minister and other Ministers their own views on national problems and opportunities in the computer and information technology field. Discussion should thus cover the part that both private industry itself and the Government have to play. The occasion should also, of course, serve to contribute to the Government's general IT "awareness" programme, particularly following the launch of IT Year 1982 on 19 October.

General form

4. This should follow the pattern of the reception/seminar for innovators last January, viz:

- initial reception and drinks (while the guests assemble);
- "formal" discussion;
- closing drinks and refreshments.

Given the tightness of the timing (18.30 to 20.00 hrs), however, and the desirability of allowing as much time as possible for the main discussion session, the closing refreshments might be allowed to extend beyond 20.00 hrs if arrangements at No 10 permit this (as in fact happened with the innovators' seminar). Even if the Prime Minister has to leave promptly herself, it would enable guests and other Ministers to continue informal discussion a little longer. But we can consider this further nearer the time in the light of any flexibility on the timing or the Prime Minister's other commitments.

Hn 0240

Substance of seminar

5. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to make a few introductory remarks. Thereafter I suggest we aim to discuss, say, three pre-arranged topics, each to be introduced briefly by one of the (forewarned) guests. In the time available it would not be sensible to attempt more. Possible areas from which topics might be selected include:-

- industrial aspects (eg the future direction of computing, where is the UK best placed? etc);
- encouraging applications and awareness;
- "social" and environmental implications (eg employment, privacy, education etc).

When we have settled the topics, and selected introductory speakers, there would probably be merit in circulating very short notes on them to those attending.

Attendance

6. Unless you advise to the contrary, I shall plan on broadly the same numbers as in January, viz 55 to 60 in all, including Ministers and officials. A seminar with many more than this would be too large and, in the time available, offer little chance for all participants to make a contribution.

7. On this basis the guest list might look like:-

Ministers:
Prime Minister
Chancellor
Secretary of State for Industry
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Home Secretary
Secretary of State for Employment
Minister of State, CSD
Minister of State, DOI (Mr Baker)

Five or six Conservative Members of Parliament

Fix or six officials from the main Departments concerned

Thirty-five to forty representatives from the industry. + John Hoskyns

8. Given the wide range of industrial and other interests potentially involved, we shall need to be fairly rigorous in our selection of the industrial guests. It will probably be better to go for individuals, chosen for their originality and ability to

contribute, rather than representatives of firms. This should in any case help to avoid too many feelings about why one firm rather than another has been invited.

Conclusion

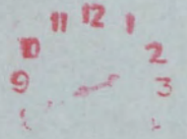
9. If the above outline is broadly acceptable I will let you have specific proposals and names as soon as possible after further consultation with the Department of Industry and the CCTA.

10. I am copying this note to Ian Ellison (Secretary of State for Industry's Office), Jonathan Hudson (Mr Baker's Office), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and to Gerald Watson at the CCTA.

J B UNWIN
21 September 1981

IT Unit
Cabinet Office

22 SEP 1981



File

DSG

CF

cc: DOI
M/S, DOI
CO
CCTA, CSD
bc MRS Foodchild

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. UNWIN
CABINET OFFICE

PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRIES

Thank you for your minute of 21 September which I have shown to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is content with your proposals for the format of the reception, and I should be glad if you would now let us have a list of people whom you think should be invited in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 7 of your minute. The Prime Minister would like John Hoskyns to be included.

I am sending copies of this minute to Ian Ellison (Department of Industry), Jonathan Hudson (Mr. Baker's Office, Department of Industry), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Gerald Watson (Central Computer & Telecommunications Agency, CSD).

T. P. LANKESTER

23 September 1981

Michael Scholar

Ian

Computer Reception - Monday 2nd November

Michael Scholar rang to say that they already have about 50 guests for this Reception - and three MPs (backbenchers) attending.

Do you mean him to invite all the extra MPs on the list you gave him, or just one or two?

— Yes please - all of them.

Can you let him know, please?

Tessa
26/10.

Tessa
23/10/81

Prime Minister (1)

You asked why (1) and (2) had been put forward - it was because of their involvement in the micros for schools programme. Do you want them invited?

Hn 0337

MR SCHOLAR (No 10)

cc Miss S Goodchild - No 10

PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY ON 2 NOVEMBER

You asked for a few additional names. I suggest the following:- MCS 20/10

Please see, too, the additions suggested by Mr Gow at Flag A. Content for these to be invited?

Schools: Mr G M A Harrison
Education Offices
Leopold Street
Sheffield S1 1RJ (Tel: 0742 26341)

(Chief Education Officer for Sheffield; Chairman of the Society of Education Officers' Sub-Committee on introducing IT into schools; Chairman of the Education Sub Committee for IT Year 82).

Polytechnics: Mr G Smith
Middlesex Polytechnic
Trent Park
Cockfosters
Barnet
Herts EN4 OPT

MCS 20/10

(Senior lecturer in Education; Leader of local Science and Technology Regional Organisation (jointly financed by DOI and private industry); recommended by DOI and DES).

BBC: Mr Bryce McCrirrick
Director of Engineering
BBC
Broadcasting House
London W1A 1AA

(Our main IT contact at the BBC; and recommended by the Home Office).

Cable and Wireless:

Mr E Sharp CBE
Chairman & Chief Executive
Cable & Wireless Ltd
Mercury House
Theobalds Road
LONDON WC1 X8RX

(Recommended by DOI)

2. As previously requested, it would be very helpful if someone could let me have the list of acceptances (and notice of any early refusals) as soon as possible.

J B UNWIN
19 October 1981

IT Unit
Cabinet Office

Prime Minister

(1)

MR. SCHOLAR

Content for these people to be added to the list you have already approved?

Reception/Seminar for Representatives of the Computer Industry on 2 November MCS 19/10

David Wolfson has suggested the following names for inclusion in the Reception for Representatives of the Computer Industry:

Why?	Mr. G.M.A. Harrison 1	Chief Education Officer for Sheffield
Why?	Mr. G. Smith 2	Senior Lecturer in Education, Middlesex Polytechnic
✓	Mr. Bryce McCrirrick 3	Director of Engineering BBC
✓	Mr. E. Sharp 4	Chairman, and Chief Executive, Cable & Wireless.

Would the Prime Minister agree that these be included?

Sue Goodchild

3 - 4 Yes.

I see no reason for 1 - 2 unless further advised N.B. Middx. Poly is in my constituency

19 October 1981

Schools. Polytechnics } Training.

POST OFFICE? CABLE + WIRELESS.?

MR. GOW

~~c.o. Mr. Wolfson~~
Mr. Ingham

P.a. Mes 19/10

BBC. Computer Series in January. + Their 2 Manufacturers.

Prime Minister's Reception on 2 November for Representatives of the Computer Industry

I attach a copy of a note to me from Mr. Unwin, which provides a suggested list of people to be invited to the Prime Minister's Reception for representatives of the computer industry.

You have already suggested that Mr. G.B. Jackson, Managing Director of Jackson Associates, should be added to the list, and this is being done. I would be grateful for any further suggestions you or Mr. Wolfson may have. Since time is getting very short, I am in parallel submitting Mr. Unwin's list of names to the Prime Minister for approval, with the rider that we are keeping a number of spaces vacant to accommodate people suggested by Mr. Wolfson or yourself. (Our progress with this has been held up by the absence of the last two weeks; my aim is to get the invitations out on Monday, 19 October.)

Mr. Ingham will notice that Mr. Unwin is proposing that only one journalist should be invited, a Mr. Peltu. I would be grateful for his advice on this aspect of the occasion.

MS

14 October, 1981.

Prime Minister (4)

Mr Gow has already suggested one additional guest and I am asking him and Mr Wolfson for further suggestions. Subject to their views are you content with this list?

Hn 0300

MR M SCHOLAR - NO 10

cc Mr D Wright
Mr Courtney
Mr Norman

PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION ON 2 NOVEMBER FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY

MCS 14/10

Mr Lankester's minute of 23 September conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement to the proposed format of the above reception and asked me to provide a list of people to be invited.

2. I attach such a list at Annex A. The names are the outcome of consultation with the CCTA and the Department of Industry . Although, for convenience, I have grouped them under industry headings, we have chosen them not as representatives of particular companies or institutions but as individuals who should be capable of making a useful contribution to the evening. This should also help to avoid too many bruised feelings among companies not invited, though there will no doubt be some.

3. I also attach at Annex B a short paragraph to send out with the formal invitations. A similar procedure was followed for the reception for inventors last January. As this indicates, I would propose (as Dr Ashworth did last time) to follow this up by writing to each of the outsiders attending to give them further details of the occasion including short notes on the topics we suggest might be discussed. I will also line up individuals to introduce them briefly, together with some "reserves" for the ensuing discussion, although I doubt in practice whether this will be needed. I will, of course, let you see the short notes I propose to send out.

4. It would be very helpful if you could arrange to let me know as soon as possible the names of those accepting and, in particular, of any early refusals. I can then follow up as proposed above and, in the case of any early refusals, suggest one or two substitutes.

5. Nearer the time I will let the Prime Minister have briefing for the occasion, including some short introductory speaking notes and brief notes on those attending.

J B UNWIN

9 October 1981

IT Unit
Cabinet Office

ANNEX A

RECEPTION/SEMINAR ON 2 NOVEMBER FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY

Guests to be invited

Ministers

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Industry
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Home Secretary
Minister of State, CSD (Mr Hayhoe)
Minister of State, DOI (Mr Baker)
Parliamentary Under Secretary, DOI (Mr Wakeham).

Conservative Bank Benchers

Mr John Butcher (Coventry, SW)
Mr Ian Lloyd (Havant & Waterloo)
Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings)

Outside Guests

Mainframes

R W Wilmot Esq
Managing Director
International Computers Ltd
ICL House
Putney
LONDON SW15 1SW

J Fairclough Esq
Director
IBM (United Kingdom) Ltd
PO Box 41
North Harbour
Portsmouth
Hants PO6 3AU

B Long Esq
Vice President & Managing Director
Honeywell Information Systems Ltd
Honeywell House
Great West Road
Brentford
Middlesex

Minicomputers etc

D Roberts Esq
Director
GEC
Hirst Research Centre
East Lane
Wembley
Middlesex

B de Ferranti Esq
Deputy Chairman
Ferranti Ltd
Bridge House
Park Road
Gatley
Cheadle
Cheshire SK8 4H2

C A Davies Esq
Chairman
Computer Technology Ltd
Sunley House
46 Jewry Street
Winchester
Hants SO23 8RP

J Gow Esq
Managing Director
Systime Ltd
Concourse Computer Centre
432 Dewsbury Road
Leeds
Yorkshire LS11 7DF

Office Systems

M Bevan Esq
Chairman
Xionics Ltd
Dumbarton House
68 Oxford Street
London W1N 9LA

M Aldrich Esq
Managing Director
Rediffusion Computers Ltd
17/27 Kelvin Way
Crawley
West Sussex RH10 2LY

D Pitcher Esq
Director
The Plessey Co Ltd
2/60 Vicarage Lane
Ilford
Essex 1G1 4AQ

Sir Ernest Harrison
Chairman & Managing Director
Racal Electronics Ltd
Western Road
Bracknall
Berks RG12 1RG

A Sumner Esq
Managing Director
Data Recall Ltd
Diamond House
138 Smith Street
Dorking
Surrey RH4 2EU

Micros

M D Fischer Esq
Chairman
Research Machines Ltd
Mill Street
Oxford OX2 OBW

Dr H Hauser
Managing Director
Acorn Computers Ltd
27 Bridge Street
Cambridge
Cambs

C Sinclair Esq
Managing Director
Science of Cambridge Ltd
6 Kings Parade
Cambridge
CB2 1SN

Unions

T Webb Esq
National Officer
Association of Scientific, Technical &
Managerial Staffs
10-26A Jamestown Road
London NW1 7DT

Peripherals, Terminals and Data Communications

R Saar Esq
Managing Director
Newbury Laboratories Ltd
King Street
Odiham
Hants RG25 1NN

H H Brown Esq
Managing Director
Lynwood Scientific Developments Ltd
Caker Stream Road
Mill Lane
Alton Hants

J L A Selby Esq
Managing Director
Trend Communications Ltd
Knaves Beech Estate
Loudwater
High Wycombe
Bucks HP10 9QZ

L Brownlow Esq
Managing Director
Rodime Ltd
Nasmyth Road
Southfield Industrial Estate
Glenrothes
Fife
Scotland

H Smeaton Esq
Managing Director
Fortronics Ltd
Holden Way
Donibristle Industrial Estate
Dunfermline
Scotland

Computer Services and Consultancy

P A B Hughes Esq
Chairman
Logica Holdings Ltd
64 Newman Street
London W1A 4SE

M Reynolds Esq
Chairman
Micro Focus Ltd
58 Acacia Road
St John's Wood
London NW8 6AG

G M R Graham Esq
Chairman
BIS Applied Systems Ltd
York House
199 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7UT

R Thomas Esq
Chairman
The Altergo Group
Warwick House
38 Soho Square
London W1

Mrs V S Shirley
Chairman
F International Ltd
Chesham House
Church Lane
Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 2HA

H Hunt Esq
Managing Director
PA Computers & Telecommunications Ltd
Rochester House
33 Greycoat Street
London SW1P 2QF

Academic

Prof B Randell
University of Newcastle
Claremont Towers
Claremont Road
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Prof J Alty
University of Liverpool
Brownlow Hill
PO Box 147
Liverpool L69 3BX

Prof Enid Mumford
Manchester Business School
Booth Street West
Manchester
M15 6PB

Users

N Lewis Esq
Director for Systems
Ford Motor Company Ltd
Eagle Way
Brentwood
Essex

P Hermon Esq
Management Services Director
British Airways
Speedbird House
London (Heathrow) Airport
PO Box 10
Hounslow
Middlesex

D Harris Esq
Director of Computers
Tesco Stores Ltd
PO Box 18
Delamare Road
Cheshunt
Herts

Others

A A Benjamin Esq
Chairman
Information Technology 1982 Ltd
19 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4EB

D Fairbairn Esq
Director
National Computing Centre Ltd
Oxford Road
Manchester M1 7ED

G J Pocock Esq
Senior Director
Marketing Executive
British Telecom
2-12 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7AG

J P Dukes Esq
Managing Director and Deputy Chief Executive
The Channel Four Television Co Ltd
Avenfield House
118-127 Park Lane
London W1Y 3AF

M Peltu Esq
(Freelance Journalist)
33b Chiswick Lane
London W4

Mr G B Jackson
Jackson Associates
44/45 West St
Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1RP

K E Macdonald Esq
Managing Director
IPC Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd
Quadrant House
Sutton
Surrey SM2 5AS

Officials

Mr John Hoskyns (No 10 Policy Unit)

Mr R H F Croft (Deputy Secretary,
Department of Industry)

Mr G W Watson (Director, Central Computer &
Telecommunications Agency, CSD)

Mr A H Lovell (Under Secretary, H M Treasury)

Mr R G Courtney) Information Technology Unit
Mr A R D Norman) Cabinet Office.

ANNEX B

Following a successful occasion earlier this year, when the problems associated with innovation were discussed, the Prime Minister has decided to hold a similar reception at Downing Street for a small number of representatives of the computer industry and related fields. The main purpose of the reception is to give the Prime Minister an opportunity of hearing at first hand the views of those closely involved in the industry on the problems and opportunities facing the United Kingdom in computing and information technology, and on the part that both private industry itself and the Government have to play. The Information Technology Unit of the Cabinet Office will be in touch separately with those attending with further information about the occasion.

MRS. SUE GOODCHILD

Mr. G.B. Jackson -
Managing Director of Jackson Associates

1. Herewith copy letter dated 5th March from Mr. G.B. Jackson, together with a copy of my reply.

2. Would it be possible, please, to put him on a future guest list for a Reception at which the Computer Services Industry will be represented?

11th March, 1981

IAN GOW

JACKSON ASSOCIATES

44/45 West Street
Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1RP

Telex 86405
Telephone
· Chichester 0243/787721

G.B. JACKSON ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Principal Subsidiaries
JA Computer Services Limited
JA Software Services Limited

GBJ/RT

I. Gow, Esq.,
Parliamentry Private Secretary
House of Commons,
London SW1A OAA

5th March, 1981

Dear Mr. Gow,

Very many thanks for your letter of the 26th February, and I very much look forward to meeting you on June 6th.

I was very interested to read in the Financial Times of the Prime Minister's recent meeting with small companies who are helping to counteract the recession. I was surprised that, bearing in mind the previous correspondence we have had with Mrs. Thatcher, and the fact that her diary commitments would not allow her to visit Chichester, that she did not feel it relevant that a representative from the Computer Services Industry was present at that gathering.

I believe our industry will contribute in a major way to the country's export achievements, and industrial and commercial growth.

It is interesting that within a matter of ten days of forming our company in the United States, we are on the verge of signing a major contract with a New York Commodity Company, and making an acquisition in the New York area, and I would certainly have thought that the Prime Minister should be interested in an area of industry and commerce which I am sure over the next twenty years is likely to feature quite prominently in our commercial life.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

G.B. JACKSON
Managing Director

Directors
A R Starkey Chairman
G B Jackson MBCS Managing Director
Mrs S C Jackson Secretary
M J Burton MA MBCS
D W Ferguson
Mrs I E King
S H J A Knott BA
I S V Mackenzie BSc Eng
I G Olliver
C Rengert FCA
I M G Senior
Mrs E A Wood BA Hons

Registered in England
No. 1169451
VAT No. 321 7116 96

Member of the
Computing Services Association

10 DOWNING STREET

11th March, 1981

Your ref:
GBJ/RT

Many thanks for your letter of 5th March.

The Prime Minister does have meeting with representatives of the Computer Services Industry, and will do so again.

I was delighted to hear of the success of your Company, and I hope that it may be possible for you to meet the Prime Minister on some future occasion. I will do my best to arrange this.

With best wishes.

IAN GOW MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister

G.B. Jackson, Esq.
Managing Director,
Jackson Associates,
44 West Street,
Chichester, West Sussex

b.c.c. Anthony Nelson, Esq. M.P.