



Japan
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 July 1982

PERSONAL

Prime Minister's visit to Japan

Sir Julian Ridsdale asked me to lunch today to discuss the Prime Minister's visit to Japan.

He was rather concerned that the impact of the visit on public opinion here might be negative since it was bound to resurrect criticism of Japanese behaviour during the Falklands crisis as well as of its economic policy. He wondered whether, in order to impart a positive note, we might be able to secure significant defence sales business during the visit. In particular, he thought we should be able to interest the Japanese in purchasing Harrier aircraft. No doubt this point is under consideration.

He also suggested that we should arrange for the Prime Minister to meet, during her visit:

(a) The Governor of the Bank of Japan whose views on economic policy were, Ridsdale thought, not dissimilar from those of the Prime Minister.

(b) A Mr. Komoto who I believe is Minister of Planning and who, again according to Ridsdale, might be a future Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter to David Omand (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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