

FILE SH

PRIME MINISTER

I am awfully sorry to raise this point, but I think it would be better if Mr. Thatcher did not attend the cricket matches between South Africa and the West Indian touring team which are included in his itinerary.

You may like to discuss this with Mr. Thatcher over the weekend.

The arguments against attendance are set out in the attached letter - and you will see that Geoffrey Howe thinks that the invitations from the Transvaal Cricket Council should be declined. I can well see some British newspapers and the Opposition in Parliament setting out to embarrass you if Mr. Thatcher does go to these events.

The last part of the letter deals with the line we should take with the press about the visit. If this is acceptable to Mr. Thatcher, I shall brief Bernard accordingly.

6 January, 1984