

CEP
4

International
Commitments: Dec 1983



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
80 ELGIN STREET
OTTAWA K1P 5K7

From the High Commissioner
Sir Derek Day KCMG

Prime Minister
You may like to bear
in mind this possibility

Charles Powell Esq
Prime Minister's Office
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1

3 May 1985
When you come to
consider next year's

Dear Charles,

me

programme.

CDP

I mentioned to you my hope that the Prime Minister might be able to visit Canada in 1986. Here are my reasons.

- i. We could and should do more trade with Canada. Our sales in 1984 totalled Cdn \$2.3 billion (equivalent to £1.37 billion at current exchange rates). This is an increase of 28% over 1983. But some of our competitors have done even better: France up 45%, Germany up 38%, Japan up 29.4%. There are commercial opportunities in Canada, big and small, for the energetic and enterprising British exporter. A visit by the Prime Minister would give encouragement to those already active in the field and an impetus to others.
- ii. Canada has come back into the Alliance fold after the lean-ish Trudeau years. Mulroney deserves credit for this. It is not a risk-free policy for him. He will be sniped at from both left and right, the latter fearful of a diminution of Canadian sovereignty and independence. We need to encourage him to remain on course. A visit of the Prime Minister would greatly help to reinforce the current favourable trends in Canada's international policy.
- iii. EXPO 86 is being held in Vancouver next year. This is the major international exhibition of the year. All our political and commercial rivals will be there in strength (eg the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, the US, France, Germany, Japan). We will have a substantial UK Pavilion. The theme of EXPO 86 is Communication and Transport. This will be

/an



an important opportunity to display our high technological achievements in this sector. A visit by the Prime Minister to coincide with, if possible, the British Day on 8 July would make an enormous impact. An arrival by Concorde (which could then put on a show over the city and EXPO site) would provide icing on the cake. And the whole thing is happening in British Columbia.

I realise only too well the competing claims on the Prime Minister's time. I hope nevertheless that it might be possible to fit in a visit which, at a pinch, need be no more than one full day in Vancouver and one day in Ottawa.

Yours ever.

DM

D M Day

P.S. It was good to see you
take the week. Thanks for all
your help over the visit.

)