

PRIME MINISTER

EXPO 86: VANCOUVER

You have agreed in principle to consider attending the British Day of EXPO 86 in Vancouver next July, provided it is on a Saturday.

I have been investigating journey times. We could do London-Vancouver in 7 hours by Concorde. This would make it possible to leave London at 1000 on Saturday, 12 July, and be in Vancouver at 0915 on Saturday, 12 July; spend the whole day and Saturday/Sunday night there, getting back to London on the Sunday evening. I can't deny it would be a pretty tiring journey, especially in July. But it is feasible. You might be able to leave on the Friday evening after Finchley Carnival, giving you an extra night on the ground in Vancouver.

I have consulted Sir Robert Armstrong on the question of costs. He advises that it would be legitimate to pay the subsonic costs of the journey and ask British Airways to carry the excess cost of Concorde, as a promotional expense to show Concorde off in Canada. Since a major trade fair is involved, there is a lot to be said for your winging in by Concorde.

If you decided to do the journey instead by RAF VC10, it would take 10 hours each way (provided the party was no more than 15 strong). You could leave London on the Friday evening after the Finchley Carnival. The journey would be:

Friday,	11 July:	Depart London:	1800
		Arrive Vancouver:	2100
Saturday,	12 July:	Depart Vancouver:	2200
Sunday,	13 July:	Arrive London:	1520

The argument in favour of going is that it is a major trade fair in a very big market, where your presence would have a

cf. Do we have any ed's pps? (1)

very big impact (and Mr. Mulroney would, I am sure, join you). Against is the fact that July is always a very busy month, and you may well feel that going abroad is just too much.

I think the questions to be answered are:

1. Do you think you can face this sort of journey in mid-July? *Not really worth it for one day.*
2. If yes, agree to investigate with British Airways the possibility of using Concorde? or
3. Prefer to stick to the RAF?

*C.D.P.*

CDP

20 December, 1985.

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