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ACT 2000



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*Sent to you via...*

London SW1A 2AH

*A.C. 15/11*

15 November 1983

*Don't clash with other luncheons?*

*Prime in fixing*

*one on the Thursday*

*red*

Dear John,

CHOGM: Bilateral Contacts

In your letter of 28 October, you asked for advice on meetings which the Prime Minister might seek to arrange on 22 November, and particularly whether she should offer lunch to any of the participants on that day.

I am sorry for the delay in replying. We have been waiting for confirmation that the meeting with Mr Hawke would be the following day. I have written to you separately today on that subject.

*Agree?*

The Foreign Secretary considers that the Prime Minister might usefully give a lunch on 22 November for leaders of delegations from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Sir Geoffrey would not suggest adding Jamaica and Barbados to this group, as he does not think the Prime Minister would wish to be seen to be meeting the intervention group as such.

Additionally, Sir Geoffrey considers that it would be useful to arrange in advance a small number of formal bilateral meetings for the Prime Minister. As you will know, CHOGMs provide a particularly good opportunity for contacts of this kind; and, because the official programme is so crowded, it would be as well to have a clear idea in advance of what priority should be attached to particular contacts.

*fixed for 4:30 on 22 Nov.*

*Agree?*

In addition to the meeting with Mr Hawke, we are also as you know trying to arrange an early meeting between the Prime Minister and Mrs Gandhi. Sir Geoffrey suggests that we should also try to arrange bilateral meetings with (in order of priority) President Shagari (Nigeria), President Jayewardene (Sri Lanka), President Obote (Uganda) and President Moi (Kenya). I attach a short background note (Annex 1) about the importance of each of these to current British interests, with an indication of topics which it might be particularly useful for the Prime Minister to raise.

/If a lunch





If a lunch with the OECS leaders on 22 November does not prove practicable, the Prime Minister might try to meet them jointly during CHOGM at some other time.

Additionally, Sir Geoffrey considers that the Prime Minister might usefully make a point during CHOGM of speaking privately to the following:

- ✓ Mr Lee Kuan Yew (Singapore)
- ✓ Mr Price (Belize)
- ✓ Mr Seaga (Jamaica)
- ✓ Mr Adams (Barbados)
- ✓ Mr Chambers (Trinidad and Tobago)
- ✓ Sir L Pindling (The Bahamas)
- ✓ President Jawara (The Gambia)
- ✓ Mr Mugabe (Zimbabwe)

Sir Geoffrey does not believe that formal bilateral meetings are necessary with any of these; private conversations during the Goa weekend would be sufficient. I attach a separate note (Annex II) on what the Prime Minister might hope to achieve from these conversations.

If the Prime Minister agrees to these suggestions, we shall try to arrange meetings with the OECS leaders (either over lunch or at some other time); and with the Presidents of Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Kenya.

In practice of course the Prime Minister will be able to meet all the Heads of Government informally at the various functions, and some, like Mr Forbes Burnham, will make a point of getting in touch with her. The purpose of this letter is to identify those who are in present circumstances of particular importance and relevance to us, and who should not be missed for a reasonably substantial talk.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Assistant Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



ANNEX I

HEADS OF DELEGATION WITH WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER  
MIGHT AIM TO HAVE FORMAL BILATERALS AT CHOGM

Mr Hawke )  
Mrs Gandhi)

Already in hand. A meeting with Mrs Gandhi would enable the Prime Minister to talk about commercial projects and defence sales, in particular the sale of BAE 146 aircraft.

*Not appropriate to discuss commercial matters at this time.*

President Shagari  
(Nigeria)

Nigeria is one of our three largest export markets outside Western Europe and North America. She is a leading member of the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, OPEC and the OAU, and is one of the world's largest free democracies. Nigerians feel that their viewpoint on a range of matters is insufficiently appreciated in London and regret the lack of recent high level personal contact.

/President





President Jayewardene  
(Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka is a friendly pro-Western country; it is in our interest to reinforce her future as a stable democracy. We have encouraged a policy of reconciliation and a dialogue between Sinhalese and Tamils; our bilateral relations have lost something of their even tenor since the anti-Tamil violence in July. A meeting would reaffirm our traditional friendship and enable the Prime Minister to emphasise the need for communal reconciliation.

President Obote  
(Uganda) X

Our policy has been to help Uganda return to normality by provision of aid and training assistance and to speak frankly about shortcomings and urge change for the better. Although Uganda's best interests remain in a firm

-/association





association with the West, Obote continues to flirt with the Russians and North Koreans. The Prime Minister could seek a clear statement from him of his future policy intentions and raise the question of displaced persons at Luwero.

President Moi  
(Kenya)

✓ Kenya remains of great importance to British interests in East Africa and more generally; a meeting with Moi would reassure him about British attitudes to Kenya and to him in particular; it would allow a number of bilateral points to be dealt with.



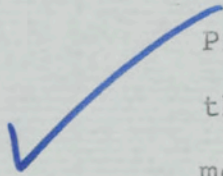


ANNEX II

LEADERS TO WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT SPEAK  
PRIVATELY DURING WEEKEND RETREAT

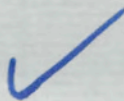
Mr Lee Kuan Yew  
(Singapore)

This would provide an opportunity for a stimulating discussion of CHOGM and wider issues. The Prime Minister might also raise the possibility of British commercial involvement in the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit Project and also talk about the transfer of high technology.



Mr Price  
(Belize)

A meeting might be useful, depending on developments on the Belize/Guatemala issue.



Mr Seaga (Jamaica)

) A fence-mending

Mr Chambers (Trinidad and Tobago)

) exercise, following

Mr Adams (Barbados)

) the Grenada episode.

Sir L Pindling (The Bahamas)

)

/President





President Jawara  
(The Gambia)

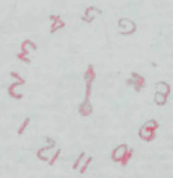
The Prime Minister was unable to see him in September, and we then told the Gambians that CHOGM would provide an opportunity for a meeting. A short meeting in Goa would fulfil this commitment.

Mr Mugabe  
(Zimbabwe)

An opportunity to set the seal on the repair of our relations (such a meeting has been privately recommended by President Machel and Senator Norman, the white Minister for Agriculture). This should enhance the prospects for subsequent concessions by Mugabe on points of contention.



CHUAM: P+S



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CHUAM: P+S





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 November 1983

CHOGM: BILATERAL CONTACTS

Thank you for your letter of 15 November.

With regard to the proposal that the Prime Minister should give a lunch on 22 November for the Heads of OECS delegations, the Prime Minister has asked whether this lunch would clash with others. Is The Queen giving a lunch on that day?

Mrs. Thatcher has agreed that we should try to arrange bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Kenya, but she is not inclined to have such a meeting with the President of Uganda.

The Prime Minister would also make a point of speaking privately to all those listed on page 2 of your letter, with the exception of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas and the President of the Gambia.

With regard to Annex 1 of your letter, the Prime Minister has commented that she does not believe it would be appropriate to raise commercial questions with Mrs. Gandhi (as I intimated in an earlier letter).

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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