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APR 79

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 July 1983

Dear Brian,

Prime Minister's Overseas Travel  
Plans

Thank you for your letter of 8 July. In this reply I shall also deal with Richard Mottram's letter of the same date.

Norway

I am afraid that the alternative dates suggested by Mr Willoch for the Prime Minister's visit pose considerable problems. Mrs. Thatcher is planning another overseas visit for 26-28 September. On 20 October she has to be in the House of Commons and there may be another bilateral meeting on 21 October. The period 14-18 November is very difficult because, owing to her absence from Parliament later in the month (see below), the Prime Minister must answer Parliamentary Questions on 15 and 17 November. She is also holding talks with the Yugoslav Prime Minister on 16 November. On 28 November she will be in India. She returns from there on 30 November and has to leave for Athens early the next week so the dates of 2-3 December for a visit to Norway would not be convenient.

The Prime Minister would of course not wish to inconvenience Mr. Willock but, in the light of the difficulties set out above, wonders whether it would be possible to consider again the dates proposed earlier, namely 18-20 September.

British Forces, Germany

The Prime Minister is basically content with the proposals in Richard Mottram's letter of 8 July and planning can proceed on that basis.

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She has considered whether to invite Chancellor Kohl to attend part of her visit to the British Forces but has decided against this. She still hopes, however, that it will be possible to call on Chancellor Kohl in Bonn at the end of her visit to the British Forces for talks and/or a working meal. This proposal may be put to the Germans whenever you wish.

We now wish to proceed quickly with the arrangements for the visit to Norway and the British Forces. I shall not want to bother the Prime Minister with questions about the arrangements during August. We shall therefore need to settle this month the outline programme, the composition of the party, the requirements for speeches, briefing arrangements and any other details which can be dealt with this far in advance.

I should therefore be grateful if you and Richard Mottram can aim to let me have by the end of this week an outline programme with detailed timings together with any requirements which you see for speeches. I shall then consult the Prime Minister about these points and the other matters mentioned above.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

*Yours ever*

*John Gals.*

Brian Fall Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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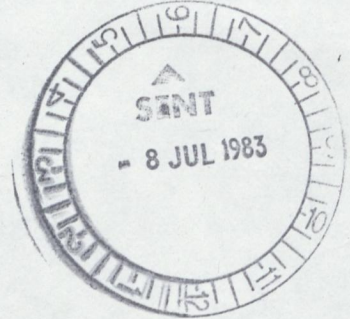


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FROM OSLO 080830Z JUL83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 93 OF 08 JULY 1983



FCO TELNO 52: VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER

1. THE NORWEGIANS ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP MR WILLOCH'S INVITATION TO VISIT NORWAY. HOWEVER THE DATES PROPOSED ARE NOT, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, THE MOST CONVENIENT FOR MR WILLOCH. HE HAS PROPOSED AS ALTERNATIVES:-

- 26 - 28 SEPTEMBER
- 20 - 22 OCTOBER
- 14 - 18 NOVEMBER
- 28 NOVEMBER

OR 2 - 3 DECEMBER

2. THE NORWEGIANS UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ALTERNATIVES MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. HIS OFFICE HAVE HINTED THAT, IN THIS EVENT, HE COULD BE EXPECTED TO AGREE TO 18 - 20 SEPTEMBER.

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PS  
SIR. J. BULLARD  
MR. JAMES

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