

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO JAMAICA: SPEECH

I have had a go at your speech at the lunch in your honour in Jamaica. It has to be quite short because the whole programme is very compressed and the time available for lunch is no exception. The speech will be televised.

I have tried to make the speech generally helpful and supportive of Seaga. You asked us to find out whether there were any particular points he would like you to cover. The attached telegram from Kingston suggests that references to his proposals on international debt (which, on first analysis, we cannot accept) and to South Africa would be desirable. I have included passages on both topics.

You will also see that I have made references to Jamaican reggae music and modern Jamaican poetry, with which you may well not be entirely familiar! But the Jamaicans are very proud of them and a reference in the speech could go down very well. I attach the words from Bob Marley's "Get up, stand up" song so you can see an example; also Braithwaite's poem about cricket to which the speech refers.

I am sending the speech to the Foreign Office for comments. Their own version was unusable. We may need to make some amendments subsequently.

C.D.P.

Charles Powell

11 July 1987

Prime Minister's Speech

at

Lunch

given by

the Prime Minister of Jamaica

in

Kingston

on

Saturday 18 July

Prime Minister, Ministers, Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I first thank you very warmly indeed for  
inviting me to visit Jamaica in this 25th  
Anniversary year of your independence, and  
for making me so welcome with the  
hospitality for which Jamaica is

renowned.

It has, sadly, to be a short visit.

Even so I have this morning seen something both of your history and of your more recent achievements.

I have been very impressed and congratulate you, Prime Minister, and all Jamaicans for what you have built during those 25 years.

When Christopher Columbus first came here nearly five hundred years ago, he immediately called it "the fairest isle that eyes have beheld".

I came by a rather different route but I reach just the same conclusion now.



~~Prime Minister, I am not giving away any secrets if I say that people in Britain have always had a particularly soft spot~~

~~for Jamaica and for Jamaicans.~~

Moreover,

Your natural courtesy, friendliness and cheerfulness make others warm immediately to you.

The deep Christian commitment of Jamaicans is admired and indeed envied.

Our recently retired High Commissioner wrote when he left Kingston that he and his wife had come across more thoroughly good people in Jamaica than anywhere else

they had served.

You cannot receive a finer tribute than that.

But then Jamaica has become very much a part of our life in Britain.

I don't mean just the music of Bob Marley.

For someone of my generation its perhaps more truthful to say that I see why others find it so stimulating - although no-one

can fail to be moved by the message of a  
song like "Get up, stand up" with its call  
to people to believe in their own  
dignity *and in their own effort.*

And your poets have had a remarkable  
influence too: Edward Braithwaite showed  
in 'Rites' that not only can West Indians  
play the best cricket in the world they  
can also write the best poems about it.



But the contribution which Jamaicans have made to Britain goes much wider than that.

The many tens of thousands who came to us in the 1950s and 1960s have become a valuable and respected part of our society.

They are ever more strongly represented in the professions and the public service, particularly as magistrates and in local government - even if they are sometimes

just a shade controversial in the latter.  
We are proud of them and thank them all.

Prime Minister, you and I must be two of the  
heads of government in office today with  
the longest continuous service in office  
today.

Our experience has many parallels.

We have both had to confront very

difficult economic problems and we have

tackled them in similar ways.

We both believe in strong government, in sound financial management, in overcoming inflation, and in promoting enterprise as the best way to create jobs.

Jamaica has not had an easy time in recent years.

Many of the problems with which you have

had to deal came about through no fault of  
Jamaica's.

But thanks to your outstanding skill and  
determination, the future now looks much  
better.

That is a tribute to the way in which you  
have stuck consistently to the policies  
which you know to be right.

I believe that if you explain frankly to

people why <sup>Jim</sup> ~~tough~~ measures are needed, then they will give you their support because they can see that in the long run this is the only way to the better life for themselves and their families which is what they want.

That has been our experience in Britain and we are now seeing the results.

I am delighted to see that Jamaica's

performance is also now improving  
markedly, thanks to your leadership.

It is because of our confidence in Jamaica's  
future, Prime Minister, that I am glad to  
announce today the British Government's  
decision to make available a further loan  
of £5 million over two years, as an  
indication of our desire to help and  
support what you are doing.

When you came to Britain in 1984, we had a long talk and you told me then that, more than anything, you wanted to improve the lot of children, and that year would be the first in which every child attending school in Jamaica would get a full set of text books.

I remember thinking at the time what a very sensible and far-seeing aim that was.

Education of our children is vital to our future prosperity and success.

I understand, Prime Minister, that you have it in mind to use our loan for a textbook

rental scheme for Jamaica's schools.

That is a characteristically imaginative proposal and one which would bring real benefits to the children and young people of Jamaica.



If the details can be satisfactorily agreed, it will have our full support.

While we are on the subject of the help which Britain can give Jamaica, can I also say that we shall continue to fight hard in the European Community - and we have quite a bit of experience of fighting in that organisation - to make sure that Jamaica and other Caribbean countries go on

enjoying the advantages of the preferential arrangements for sugar and bananas under the Lomé Convention.

I know how important that is to you.

Prime Minister, you and I will meet again in a few months' time at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver.

Our last session, in the Bahamas, was dominated by the single issue of South

Africa.

It is of course a vitally important issue.

Apartheid is an utterly repulsive and detestable system and it must go.

There has to be fundamental change in South Africa.

But it must come about by dialogue, not violence.

Comprehensive ~~trade~~ and economic sanctions

would only entrench apartheid and increase the risk of bloodshed without bringing a settlement any nearer.

I have never understood what is moral about sanctions when they would cost the jobs and livelihood of black people, who are those most urgently in need of help.

That is why, ~~rather than punishing them with sanctions,~~ we are devoting some £ million to assistance to black South

Africans and have contributed a further  
£ million to development of the  
neighbouring front line states.

~~We must also continue to work for the  
suspension of violence and the opening of  
a dialogue as proposed by the Commonwealth  
Group of Eminent Persons, which included  
of course a distinguished representative  
from the Caribbean.~~

So while South Africa must certainly be

discussed at Vancouver, I hope that we shall also devote plenty of time to other issues, as indeed the Commonwealth Secretary-General has proposed.

In particular I would like to see us discuss economic problems and the international debt crisis.

I know, Prime Minister, that with your

tremendous experience and expertise in this field, you have recently made some very important proposals for dealing with debt problems.

They will be discussed in a number of international gatherings and we are examining them with great interest.

Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, short visits should be marked by short speeches.

I want to thank you once more for your generous hospitality and say how much I am looking forward to our talk this afternoon.

It is very cheering to find such warmth and such friendship.

An occasion like this brings to mind

Polonius' words in Hamlet:

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption  
tried



Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel."

That I believe expresses better than anything the feelings which we in Britain have for Jamaica.

And it is in that spirit that I raise my glass to drink a toast to you, Prime Minister, and to the success of your policies and to the lasting friendship

between Britain and Jamaica.

BOB MARLEY'S "GET UP, STAND UP"

Preacher man don't tell me  
Heaven is under the earth  
I know you don't know  
What life is really worth  
It's not all that glitters is gold  
Half the story has never been told  
So now you see the lights  
Stand up for our rights  
We're sick and tired of our kissing game  
To die and go to heaven in Jesus name  
We know and understand  
Almighty God is a living man  
You can fool some people sometimes  
But you can't fool all the people all the time

V

*Rites*

Many a time I have seen him savin'  
the side (the tailor was saying  
as he sat and sewed in his shop).

You remember that tourney wid Brandon?  
What-he-name-now  
that big-able water policeman—

de one in charge o' de Harbour Patrol . . .  
You mean Hop-  
a-long Cass? Is because a cow

give he mother a kick before he did born  
that he foot come out so.  
Yes, I know

but is not what I talkin' about. Ol'  
Hoppy was bowlin' that day  
as if he was hurricane father.

Lambert went in, play-  
in' he know all about it as us'al  
an' *swoosh!* there he go fan-

nin' outside the off-stump an'  
is *click!*  
he snick

de ball straight into de slips.  
'Well boys it look like we lossin'  
this match', says the skipper,

writin' nought in the exercise book  
he was keepin' the score in; 'you think  
we could chance it an' sen' Gullstone in

before Charlie or Spooks?  
So Gullstone went in.  
You could see he face whitenin'

under he tan an' you know  
that that saga-boy frighten: bat  
tappin', feet walkin' 'bout like they talkin'

wid ants; had was to stop meself axin'  
meself if he ever play cricket on Brown's beach before.  
An' I tole him,

I tole him over an' over  
agen: *watch de ball, man*, watch  
de ball like it hook to you eye

when you first goes in an' you doan know de pitch.  
Uh doan mean to *poke*  
but you jes got to *watch what you doin'*;

this isn't no time for playin'  
the fool nor makin' no sport; this is cricket!  
But Gullstone too deaf:

mudder doan clean out de wax in 'e ear!  
Firs' ball from Cass an' he fishin';  
secon' ball an' he missin', swishin'

he bat like he wishin'  
to catch butterfly; though the all Gullstone ever could catch  
pun dis beach was a cole!

But is always the trouble wid we:  
too fraid an' too frighten.  
Is all very well when it rosy an' sweet,

but leh murder start an' *bruggalungdung!*  
you cahn fine a man to hole up de side.

Look wha' happen las' week at de O-  
vall!

At de Oval?  
Wha' happen las' week at de Oval?

You mean to say that you come  
in here wid dat lime-skin cone

that you callin' a hat  
pun you head, an' them slip slop shoe strap

on to you foot like a touris';  
you sprawl you ass

all over my chair widdout ask-  
in' me please leave nor licence,

wastin' muh time when you know very well that uh cahn fine  
enough to finish these zoot suits

'fore Christmas; an' on top  
o' all this, you could wine up de nerve to stop

me cool cool cool in de middle  
o' all me needle

an' t'read; make me prick me hand in me haste;  
an' tell me broad an' bole to me face

THAT YOU DOAN REALLY KNOW WHA' HAPPEN  
at Kensington Oval?

We was *only* playin' de MCC, man;  
M - C - C  
who come all de way out from Inglan.

We was battin', you see;  
score wasn't too bad; one  
hurren an' ninety-

seven fuh three.  
The openers out, Tae Worrell out,  
Everton Weekes jus' glide two fuh fifty

an' jack, is de GIANT to come!  
Feller name Wardle  
was bowlin'; tossin' it up

sweet sweet slow-medium syrup.  
Firs' ball ...  
'N...o...o...'

back down de wicket to Wardle.  
Secon' ball ...  
'N...o...o...'

back down de wicket to Wardle.  
Third ball comin' up  
an' we know wha' goin' happen to syrup:

Clyde back pun he back  
foot an' *prax!*  
is through extra cover an' four red runs all de way.

'You see dat shot?' the people was shoutin';  
'Jesus Chrise, man, wanna see dat shot?'  
All over de groun' fellers shakin' hands wid each other

as if was *they* wheelin' de willow  
as if was *them* had the power;  
one man run out pun de field wid a red fowl cock

goin' quawk quawk quawk in 'e han';  
would'a give it to Clyde right then an' right there  
if a police hadn't stop 'e!

An' in front o' where I was sittin',  
one ball-headed sceptic snatch hat off he head  
as if he did crazy

an' pointin' he finger at Wardle,  
he jump up an' down  
like a sun-shatter daisy an' bawl

out: 'B...L...O...O...D, B...I...G B...O...Y  
bring me he B...L...O...O...D'  
Who would'a think that for twenty-

five years he was standin' up there  
in them Post Office cages, lickin' gloy  
pun de Gover'ment stamps.

If uh wasn't there to see fuh meself,  
I would'a never believe it,  
I would'a never believe it.

But I say it once an' I say it agen:  
when things goin' good, you cahn touch  
we; but leh murder start an' you cahn fine a man to hole up de side.

Like when Laker come on.  
Goin' remember what happenin' then  
for the rest o' me life.

This Laker a quiet tall heavy-face fellow  
who before he start to do anything ser'ous  
is hitch up he pants round he belly.

He bowlin' off-breaks.  
Int makin' no fuss  
jus' toss up de firs'

one an' *bap!*  
Clyde play forward firm  
an' de ball hit he pad

an' fly up over de wicket.  
Boy, *dis* is cricket!  
Laker shift weight

an' toss up de secon';  
it pitchin' off-stump an' comin' back sharp  
wid de men in de leg trap shinin' like shark.

Clyde stretchin' right out like a man in de dark  
an' he kill it.  
'N . . . O . . . O . . . O', from de schoolboys, 'hit it, hit it'.

Boy, dis is *cricket*.  
Then Laker come down wid he third  
one. He wrap up de ball in de palm

o' he han' like a package  
AN' MAKE CLYDE WALCOTT LOOK FOOLISH.  
Mister man, could'a hear

all de flies that was buzzin' out there  
round de bread carts; could'a hear  
if de empire fart.

An' then blue murder start:  
'Kill one o' dem, Clyde', some wise-  
wun was shoutin', 'knock he skull off;

doan let them tangle you up in no leg trap;  
use de feet dat God give you!  
Ev'ry blabber mout' talkin',

ev'ry man jack givin' advice;  
but we so frighten now at what happenin' there  
we could piss we pants if we doan have a care.

'*Swing de bat, man*', one feller was shoutin';  
an' Clyde swing de bat but de bat miss  
de ball an' de ball hit he pad

an' he pad went *biff*  
like you beatin' bed  
an' de empire han' stick

in de air  
like Francis who dead  
an' de bess o' we batsmen out.

The crowd so surprise you int hearin' a shout.  
Ev'ry mout' loss.  
But I say it once an' I say it agen:

when things goin' good, you cahn touch  
we; but leh murder start  
an' ol man, you cahn fine a man to hole up de side. . .

GRS 189

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MIPT : VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER

1. AFTER DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROGRAMME, AT WHICH FRANCIS (PERMANENT SECRETARY, MFA) WAS ALSO PRESENT, BRICE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE PRIME MINISTER COULD MAKE SOME REFERENCE IN HER SPEECH AT LUNCH TO SEAGA'S PROPOSAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEBT CRISIS. SHE MIGHT SAY THAT IT IS BEING EXAMINED WITH INTEREST AND THAT WE KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A PAPER OF IMPORTANCE FOR DISCUSSION IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA (OUR TEL 242 PARA 5B REFERS) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT BY FAX ON 10 JULY.

2. FRANCIS ALSO SAID AND SPEAKING QUITE PRIVATELY (PLEASE PROTECT) HE THOUGHT THAT GIVEN THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICA ISSUE HERE, AND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE RECENT VISIT OF TAMBO (WHO WAS PREDICTABLY ADVOCATING COMPREHENSIVE MANDATORY SANCTIONS - AS WAS SHEARER AT THE OFFICIAL LUNCH FOR TAMBO (OUR TELNO 259) ) THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MRS THATCHER WAS ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT BRITAIN'S STAND AGAINST APARTHEID AND OF THE POSITIVE ACTION WHICH BRITAIN HAD BEEN TAKING IN THIS REGARD.

PAYNE

K6HPAN 2580

JAMAICA: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

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