

Att.

MR. WICKS  
MR. POWELL  
MR. GRAY  
MR. ADDISON  
MR. HAMILTON ✓ 10/3  
MR. WHITTINGDALE

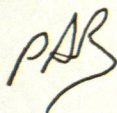
cc: Duty Clerks  
Garden Rooms  
Telephonists  
Detectives  
Drivers

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

We recently had a small problem when the Prime Minister was across at the Conference Centre and we were not able to contact her as quickly as we would have wished. In essence, the problem was that the visit was not sufficiently long for it to have been arranged for a Garden Room Girl to go, and the Conference Centre were not as efficient as they might have been in passing a message to the Private Secretary who was accompanying her. It is impossible to accurately foresee all such problems, but it would, I think, be helpful if we tightened up our procedures for those occasions when the Prime Minister is away from No. 10 for just an hour or two.

In almost all these cases the Prime Minister will be accompanied by one of the above addressees, and I would therefore propose that the person accompanying her should take with them as a matter of course a bleeper, and if there is any risk at all of them not being able to reach a telephone fairly quickly, the portable telephone as well.

Can we please introduce this with immediate effect. No doubt you will let me know if you see any difficulties.



P. A. Bearpark  
9 March 1988