



FILE SW

Yugoslavians

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July, 1982

Yugoslavia's Invitation to Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 30 June. The Prime Minister agrees that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, during his visit to Yugoslavia next week, may invite Mrs. Planinc to visit the United Kingdom at some time during the next eighteen months.

A. J. COLES

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister



Agree that Mr. Pym
may invite Mrs. Planinc, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
the Yugoslav Prime Minister,
to visit the U.K. in the
next 18 months?

London SW1A 2AH

30 June, 1982

Dear John,

A.F.C. Y, Yes mt

Yugoslavia's Invitation to Prime Minister

When the Prime Minister visited Yugoslavia in September 1980, she invited Mr Djuranovic to visit Britain, and he accepted.

The Yugoslavs will expect Mr Pym to confirm this invitation when he visits Yugoslavia on 5 to 6 July. There will be no need to tie the Prime Minister to dates and there can in any case be no question of a visit by Mrs Planinc before next year, or early in 1984. But there are strong arguments for raising the subject with Mrs Planinc with rather more emphasis than the minimum required by courtesy. Yugoslavia is confronting serious problems, and you will see from the attached biography that Mrs Planinc seems likely to set about them with energy.

I hope you would see no objection if, provided that his meeting with Mrs Planinc confirms our first positive impression of her, the Secretary of State makes it clear to her that she will in principle be welcome in London at some time during the next eighteen months or so.

Yours ever,
F N Richards
(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

PLANINC, MILKA (pronounced PLAHNEENTS)

President of the Federal Executive Council (ie Prime Minister).

Born 1924, Croat. Graduated from Higher Administrative School, Zagreb.

Joined Communist Youth 1941, Party 1944. Formerly a senior official in the Zagreb City Secretariat for Education and Culture. Secretary for Schools and Education in Croatia 1963-65. Elected to Presidium of League of Communists of Croatia 1966. 1971 became President of Croatian Party and ex-officio member of the Federal Party Presidium. Re-elected 1974 and in 1978.

Elected to her present position on May 15, 1982 (but was reluctant to take it).

Husband Zvonko - an engineer. Two grown children - son, student of architecture, and daughter, sculptress at Academy of Fine Arts. Described by the press as "a fanatical advocate of the inviolable right of officials to privacy".

An energetic woman who knows her mind and does not hesitate to reveal it. Her stern looks belie cordiality and simplicity. Has a rather disciplinarian attitude to the role of the party and government; played important role in purging the Croatian Party of Croatian nationalists after 1971 and successfully creating a new cohesive organization. No great advocate of 'democratisation' but accepts the need for a freer play of market forces in the Yugoslav economy.

WP. SD2 ACK