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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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2 July 1980

cc: Trefgarne mini ob.

Dear Mike,

Peru : Presidential Inauguration

Following democratic elections in Peru in May after twelve years of military rule, the inauguration of the new civilian President, Fernando Belaunde Terry, will take place in Lima on 28 July. A formal invitation has been received for a Special Mission from the United Kingdom to attend the ceremonies from 26 - 29 July.

We have encouraged and supported Peru's return to democracy. The landslide victory won by President Belaunde augurs well for strong and stable government. The economy is in good shape after an impressive recovery over the past year and business confidence is high. Our Embassy reports that twelve Heads of State, mainly from Latin American countries, are likely to attend the ceremonies, as well as a number of Foreign Ministers. It would be appropriate for the British Mission to be led by a Government Representative. This would help to put more substance into our relations with Peru, which are traditionally good but at present rather thin, and would provide an opportunity for useful and relaxed contacts with leading Peruvians and senior representatives from other countries.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary proposes to ask Lord Trefgarne to attend. Lord Trefgarne carried out a similar function last year when he attended the inauguration of the new civilian President of Ecuador (as a Special Representative of The Queen) and went to Bolivia for the same purpose. His role as deputy spokesman on foreign affairs and spokesman on trade and industry matters in the House of Lords would make him an appropriate choice.

/The

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The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary believes that it would be appropriate if Lord Trefgarne could deliver a special message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to the new President when he is in Peru. President Belaunde received messages of congratulation from a number of Heads of Government and Heads of State, including President Carter and the King of Spain, at the time of his election. It is our normal practice to send such messages when the new President is being inaugurated. Our Ambassador has confirmed that such a message would be well received. I enclose a draft text.

Lord Trefgarne could also usefully go on from Peru to pay short visits to Paraguay (31 July - 3 August) and Uruguay (3 - 5 August). Both are markets of increasing interest to British exporters and the first visit by a British Government representative for some years would assist our trade effort. He would be accompanied by his Private Secretary.

I would be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement to the above.

Yours Ever,
Malcolm Adams

(M C Adams)
Private Secretary

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