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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 January 1984

PM Tours  
Anglo French  
Summit

cc PM Tours: Malaysia  
July 83  
PM Tours: Portugal  
Aug 82  
PM Tours: Hungary  
Oct 83

Bilateral Visits Overseas by the Prime Minister in 1984

Thank you for your letter of 21 December on this subject and for Roger Bone's letter of 14 December about the next Anglo/French Summit.

The Prime Minister has now been able to consider her overseas travel plans for 1984 and to take certain decisions.

Hungary

The visit to Hungary from 2 to 4 February is the subject of separate correspondence and I shall shortly be writing about outstanding points. The Prime Minister has considered whether she should visit Austria after Hungary but has decided that she must return to London from Budapest on 4 February.

Portugal

We have noted (Lisbon tel. no. 246) the Portuguese suggestion that Mrs. Thatcher should visit Portugal in the second part of February or the first week in March. But the Prime Minister's strong preference, in the light of her other commitments, would be to visit Portugal during the Easter period. The best dates would be from 17 to 19 April (this would involve moving the Prime Minister's talks with the UN Secretary-General from 17 to 16 April). The only alternative would be to leave after Questions on 26 April and spend from then to 28 April in Portugal. I should be grateful if the first of these proposals could now be put to the Portuguese Government. In due course I should welcome advice on whether the Prime Minister should reply to Mr. Soares' letter of 20 September.

I have noted the comments in your letter of 21 December about the possibility of the Prime Minister visiting Spain. There may well be difficulty about fitting this in but we can consider this if and when the Spanish restrictions on Gibraltar are lifted.

Malaysia

We are conscious of Dr. Mahathir's wish that the Prime Minister should visit Malaysia fairly early this year but Mrs. Thatcher's

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commitments make this impracticable. She would very much like, to visit Malaysia at any time convenient to Dr. Mahathir in the period 15 to 28 September. Bearing in mind the Muslim holiday on 15 September and the possibility that the Prime Minister may wish to visit another country en route to Kuala Lumpur it may be best to think in terms of the Malaysian visit beginning on the evening of 17 or 18 September. But we can be flexible within the period 14 to 28 September to fit in with Mahathir's wishes. I take it that a visit of not more than 3 days is what you have in mind.

I should be grateful if you could now arrange for the above ideas to be discussed with the Government of Malaysia.

We have noted your suggestion that the Prime Minister should also visit Indonesia and, briefly, Singapore and will consider this further when the Malaysian visit is in place.

I do not think the Prime Minister will wish to decide yet whether to break her journey in the Middle East. That will depend to some extent on events in the region but we have noted your view that Egypt is the leading candidate for a visit.

Norway, Denmark and Sweden

It looks as though it will be difficult for the Prime Minister to visit one or more of these countries in 1984. Mrs. Thatcher does not wish to take a decision now. Perhaps you would let me know if the Norwegians, in particular, return to the question (it would suit us best if they did not!).

Anglo-French Summit and Franco-British Council

Bearing in mind the considerations in Roger Bone's letter of 14 December the Prime Minister's preference is that these two events should be held in late November. The Prime Minister could leave for Paris after Questions on 29 November, hold the Anglo-French Summit from then until 30 November and spend the evening of that day and part of 1 December at the Franco-British Council. Since we are likely to have considerable difficulty with any other dates I think it would be wise to put the above considerations to the French Government now in whatever way you think best.

A. J. COLES

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