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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Expo '86: Vancouver

You said in your letter of 2 January that the Prime Minister would be prepared to consider attending Expo '86 if a number of points could be settled satisfactorily. We have consulted Sir Derek Day, who has confirmed that the British Day could be moved to 12 July. He has also outlined a draft programme for the Prime Minister.

There are several possible variants of the programme, which I have attached to this letter as A, B and C. Until he has been authorised to raise the question directly with the Canadians, Sir Derek cannot guarantee that Mr Mulroney would be able to be in Vancouver on 12 or 13 July. Option A is therefore for a full two days in Vancouver without any meeting with him. This would considerably diminish the political benefits of the visit and would not meet an important part of point (iv) of your letter. I assume therefore that it might not be acceptable. Option B assumes that it would be possible to arrange the meeting in Vancouver. Option C provides for only one day in Vancouver and for the second day (13 July) to include a short break at Montreal to meet Mr Mulroney before flying on to Heathrow. All three options would bring the Prime Minister back to London comfortably within your time limit. 'A' and 'B' at 0900 hours on Monday 14 July and 'C' at around midnight on Sunday/Monday.

These timings all assume flying by Concorde. We have consulted British Airways and Lord King has confirmed that they would be delighted if the Prime Minister would travel by Concorde to Expo '86 and that they would be prepared to charge only first class fares to the Prime Minister's party (that is 15-20 seats). They would feel obliged to offer the same terms to the businessmen and on this basis would need to sell at least 40 of the remaining 80 seats to cover their costs. This should be possible. They have also offered to have a stand-by Concorde aircraft at Heathrow as an assurance against delay on the outward trip.

/If

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If you are content, and in the light of the Prime Minister's views on the possibility of needing to break the return journey at Montreal, I think that we should now ask Sir Derek Day to speak to the Canadians.

Catherine Bradley's letter of 14 January has already commented on your point (v). I would add only that, while it is true that much of the thrust of Expo '86 will be non-commercial in nature, demand from British firms for space in our pavilion is so heavy that some are having to be turned away. British participation in Expo '86 is funded by the FCO, but with strong support from British industry.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Mogg (DTI).

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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OUTLINE PROGRAMME A (ALL TIMES LOCAL)

11 July

1800 Depart Heathrow
1700 Arrive Vancouver
Drive to hotel (30 minutes)
Evening Private supper: Review programme with High
Commissioner, Consul-General and UK Commissioner
General.
Optional Extra Meeting with local representatives of British
companies.

12 July

0930 Visit store promotion (or meeting with Premier of
British Columbia)
1100 Official opening ceremony for British Day,
incorporating a British parade and display (British
military band, choirs and strong commercial
content).
Followed by Visit to UK pavilion.
1245 Official luncheon hosted by Expo
pm Visits to major store promotions of British goods in
Vancouver.
Return to hotel.
1900 Leave for Royal Ballet performance of 'A Month in
the Country', 'La Baiser de la Fee' (and a new work
by Bintley).
Followed by Reception (emphasis on commercial guests), possibly
sponsored by Jaguar Ltd.

13 July

1000 Meeting with Premier of British Columbia.
1100 Visit Canada Place (the Canadian Pavilion at Expo
and likely venue of 1986 CHOGM).
Lunch For leading industrialists and businessmen from
Western Canada, hosted by Mrs Thatcher (no speech:
round table discussion).
pm Press conference and/or interviews with radio and
TV.
Followed by Visit to the Scottish Games, a feature of British
Week.
1800 (or later) Depart Vancouver.

14 July

0900 (or later) Arrive London.

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OUTLINE PROGRAMME B (ALL TIMES LOCAL)

11 July As in programme A.

12 July As in programme A.

13 July

1000 Meeting with Premier of British Columbia.
1100 Visit Canada Place. Greeted on arrival by
Mr Mulroney.
Lunch With Mr Mulroney, followed by discussion.
pm Meetings with media.
Visit to Scottish Games (if time permits).
1800 (or later) Depart Vancouver

14 July

0900 (or later) Arrive London.