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RPC  
Press Office

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 February 1986

**EXPO '86: VANCOUVER**

Thank you for your letter of 3 February about the timing of the announcement of the Prime Minister's visit to Vancouver for Expo '86.

The Prime Minister agrees that, given the need to be able to make the best use of the promotional opportunities afforded by this visit, an early announcement of it should be made. You may like to discuss details direct with our Press Office.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister  
Agree that we

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1986

can announce your decision  
to visit Expo '86 in  
Vancouver during British Week?

Yes no

It's unusually early, but apparently  
Dear Charles, necessary to make full

Expo '86: Vancouver

use of the promotional opportunities.  
CDP 3/11

Your letter of 19 January conveyed the Prime Minister's decision to visit Expo '86 and enabled us to speak, in confidence, to the Canadians. Mr Mulroney has enthusiastically welcomed a meeting with Mrs Thatcher on 13 July, but owing to another engagement will not be able to confirm until early March that the meeting can be in Vancouver. If he cannot make it to Vancouver he would very much welcome a meeting in Montreal, as in our original Option B. It was agreed to consult further before any announcement was made by either side.

The timing of an announcement presents difficulties. A final security threat assessment cannot be given until shortly before the visit and the Prime Minister's visits are normally only announced about a month before they are due to take place. In the case of the visit to Expo '86 an announcement is, however, needed very soon if we are to make the best use of the promotional opportunities and enlist full commercial support, for example to find sponsors for the reception on 12 July after the Royal Ballet performance. Sir Derek Day has added that the Expo authorities need to be told as soon as possible of the change of British Day to 12 July (which could increase the risks of speculation and leaks).

Provided you have no objection, we should like to agree with the Canadians that No 10 should soon announce the Prime Minister's decision in principle to visit Expo '86 during British Week. Details of the precise dates, route, mode of travel etc would not be announced, although in answer to questions we could say that the possibility of a meeting with Mr Mulroney was being considered.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

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