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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 April 1986

Dear Nigel,

Prime Minister's Visit to Expo Vancouver

I promised to send you a short report on where we now stand. Charles Powell's recent letter asked us to consult Derek Day in Ottawa about the possibility of finding a sensible alternative engagement for the Prime Minister for the evening of 12 July (given Princess Margaret's apparent determination to hold to her decision to attend the Royal Ballet opening night). I attach a copy of Derek Day's reply.

Our reaction to that reply, without having consulted the Foreign Secretary, was that the alternative suggestions were unattractive, as was the High Commissioner's advice to accept duplication as regards attendance on 12 July. We therefore returned to the charge informally

That approach was made on Monday night, but we have not yet been able to establish its precise outcome, since Roger Hervey has been in constant attendance on the King of Spain's party.

The Foreign Secretary now anticipates that Princess Margaret may raise the subject with him later this evening. He therefore has it in mind to discuss it briefly with the Prime Minister when they meet early in the evening.

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Yours Sincerely
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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