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From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

I should be grateful for some advice on various aspects of the Prime Minister's visit to Australia, for which we have tentatively blocked out 30 July-7 August.

Aircraft Types

It would be helpful to know whether use of a Tristar rather than the VC10 would:

- (a) cut the journey time significantly;
- (b) reduce the number of stops en route to Australia;
- (c) be much more expensive.

(I might add in parenthesis that I have had some discussion with Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways about the possibility of chartering Concorde. It would cost about £500,000.)

Programme in Australia

It might be useful to get some advice from Sir John Leahy before his final departure - if it has not already happened - on a programme in Australia. In addition to Expo in Brisbane, the Prime Minister will presumably have to visit Canberra and Sydney, and would quite like to visit Perth.

Possible Stop-overs

A decision on possible stop-overs will depend in part on how many we actually need to make: and of course technical stops do not necessarily have to become visits. But possibility which we are considering are:

- Islamabad, to see President Zia;
- Bangkok, because the Prime Minister was unable to include it in her South East Asia tour in 1985. But would one day be enough or regarded as insultingly short?

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- Singapore, for a talk with Lee Kuan Yew;
- Madras, to see Mr. Alexander (the former High Commissioner) and balance a visit to Pakistan; and
- Saudi Arabia and/or a Gulf State.

These are very tentative ideas. But it would be helpful to know:

- whether you see objections to any of them;
- or have alternatives to suggest; and
- could draw up an overall itinerary with rough times, so that we could see what a visit encompassing 3/4 days in Australia and these stops might look like.

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