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FM CANBERRA
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 313
OF 060730Z MAY 88

YOUR TELNOS 233 AND 234: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

1. I MET SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT ON 5 MAY TO DISCUSS THE VISIT. PRIOR TO THIS WE HAD REVISED DRAFT PROGRAMME A TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF YOUR COMMENTS IN FIRST T U R AND THE LIKELY ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES GIVEN IN SECOND T U R.

2. I GAVE A COPY OF THE REVISED DRAFT PROGRAMME TO THE OFFICIALS, EXPLAINING THAT THERE WAS NO FIRM COMMITMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT IN EARLY AUGUST AND THAT THE DRAFT REPRESENTED ONLY OUR INITIAL IDEAS. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN VIEWS FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR IDEAS AND THAT THE STATES MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT HOSPITALITY AND OTHER EVENTS. THEY UNDERTOOK TO CARRY OUT THE CONSULTATIONS DISCREETLY. THEY AIM TO GIVE US A RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT, INCORPORATING STATES' VIEWS, IN TWO WEEKS. I SHALL THEN TELEGRAPH AN AMENDED DRAFT CVPROGRAMME FOR YOUR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

3. ON THE TIMING OF A RECONNAISSANCE VISIT BY PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICIALS THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE SUCH A VISIT SOME TIME IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE. I REALISE THAT THIS IS SOMEWHAT LATER THAN YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED BUT I THINK WE MUST BE GUIDED BY THE AUSTRALIANS. THEY ARE BEST PLACED TO JUDGE WHEN THE STATES' GOVERNMENTS WILL BE READY AND ALL ARE MUCH INVOLVED WITH PLANNING FOR VISITS BY MANY HEADS OF STATE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD SUGGEST DATES IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE AND ALSO DATES FOR ANY SEPARATE SECURITY RECONNAISSANCE WHICH MAY BE PLANNED.

4. I RAISED THE QUESTION OF CONTACTS WITH THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT IT WOULD BE NORMAL FOR MRS THATCHER TO HAVE A PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE AFTER NOT BEFORE THE FORMAL MEETING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER. IF ANYTHING MORE THAN THIS

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WAS PROPOSED THEY WOULD WISH TO CHECK AND LET US HAVE AUSTRALIAN VIEWS. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE NECESSARY TO GUARD AGAINST ANY EVENT BEING PUBLICLY EXPLOITED FOR PARTY POLITICAL PURPOSES. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE.

5. IN ORDER THAT THE AUSTRALIANS CAN START PLANNING FOR THE VISIT, THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBERS OF OFFICIALS, SUPPORT STAFF AND PRESS WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER ?.

B. WOULD THE RAF VC 10 BE USED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA ?. THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION AND WOULD PAY HANDLING, REFEUILLING AND CATERING COSTS.

C. WOULD THE PRIME MINISTER PROPOSE TO BRING GIFTS ?. I RECOMMEND THAT SHE DOES SO, FOR THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PRIME MINISTER HAWKE AND STATE PREMIERS. EXPENSIVE GIFTS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT THE AUSTRALIAN HABIT, SO MRS THATCHER COULD BRING COMPARATIVELY MODEST ONES.

6. WE ARE FAXING TO YOU AND PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT A COPY OF THE LATEST AUSTRALIAN GUIDANCE FOR VISITS BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

COLES

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bc B.I.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 May, 1988.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter of 3 May with the revised itinerary for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. I take your point about plunging into a working visit to Singapore after a long flight. But the only engagement which the Prime Minister wants in Singapore is a talk, perhaps over dinner, with Lee Kuan Yew. I suggest therefore that we allow several hours for recuperation in Singapore, with no meeting planned before 1700/1800. With this proviso, I am content with the revised timings, and agree that you should now consult the posts concerned.

The question of the aircraft remains difficult. The main constraint is the size of the press party. This will depend in part on how much we charge: but on the basis of our experience, it is likely comfortably to exceed the eight provided for in the RAF seating plan.

At the same time I am sceptical of the British Airways' quotation for a charter. Does it have to be a Tristar? Are there not other and smaller aircraft - 757/767 or Airbus - which might be available and cheaper? Are British Airways at the Lord King/Sir Colin Marshall level really going to slap an opportunity cost on us?

I think all this needs a bit more work before we reach a decision, in particular the following questions:

- what would we have to charge the press for seats for this trip on an RAF VC10?
- will the RAF be sending a back-up aircraft which could be used for the press?
- would it be possible to fly some of the RAF and security support personnel out to Australia and back from Thailand by commercial means, leaving more space for the press on the VC10 for the longer stages of the trip? We could be more cramped on the shorter stages within Australia and from Australia to

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Thailand.

- are there cheaper alternatives to chartering a Tristar from British Airways?

- do they seriously intend to charge us an opportunity cost? (I would be ready to pursue this with Lord King or Sir Colin Marshall when we have the answers to the other points.)

I should be grateful if this could be looked at further.

C.D. Powell

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 May 1988

*Sea Charles,*Prime Minister's visit to Australia

In your letter of 25 April you asked for some minor modifications to be made to the outward and return journeys. The revised itineraries (using a VC10) are enclosed. Please note that a 2230 hrs departure from Muscat (or Salalah) would mean an arrival in Singapore at 1115 hrs rather than 1015 hrs. This would mean arriving in Singapore for a working visit after 16 hours flying with a break in Oman of only a little over 4 hours on the way.

As you suggested, we have prolonged the stay in Bangkok on the return leg to allow for a less rushed visit to the Thai-Cambodia border. A 1900 hrs departure from Bangkok on Sunday 7 August should get the Prime Minister back to London the following day at 0615 hrs, which should avoid the Monday morning rush hour.

If you are content with these itineraries, we will now ask Posts to consult the Government concerned.

You ask in the last paragraph of your letter of 25 April for a quotation from British Airways for the charter of a larger aircraft for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. Conference Section have been in touch with the charter division of British Airways. The cost of the operation, ie actual flying and reconfiguration of a Tristar for the whole trip would be £525,000 (this would include fitting tables and beds for the Prime Minister's compartment). There would be no facilities for secure communications or plugs for electric typewriters on this aircraft.

The figure of £525,000 does not, however, cover "lost opportunity cost", ie any necessary cancelling of scheduled services which results in revenue loss including using resources of aircraft and crews. There is, in fact, no Tristar free over the period 30 July to 8 August. If, therefore, British Airways were asked to make one available, the cost quoted would be increased by the lost opportunity cost which would be in the region of £2 million (details of how this cost is arrived at can, of course, be provided, but includes forecast of expected bookings, existing bookings etc).

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I should be grateful to know whether you wish us to pursue further the question of charter from British Airways.

Yours ever,
A C Galsworthy

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

DRAFT ITINERARY
(AS AT 29 4 88)
USING RAF VC10

Outward Journey

Saturday 30 July

08.00 Depart London for Muscat
(8 hrs 15 min flying time)

19.15 Arrive Muscat
Talks with Sultan

23.30 Depart Muscat for Singapore
(7 hrs 45 min flying time)

Sunday 31 July

11.15 Arrive Singapore
Talks with Lee
Overnight stop

Monday 1 August

09.00 Depart Singapore for Perth
(5 hrs flying time)

14.00 Arrive Perth

Note: Timings may vary by 5 or 10 minutes

Return Journey

DRAFT ITINERARY
(AS AT 29 4 88)
USING RAF VC10

Saturday 6 August

- 09.00 Depart Brisbane for Singapore
(7 hrs 55 min flying time)
- 14.55 Arrive Singapore
Technical stop (1½ hrs)
- 16.25 Depart Singapore for Bangkok
(2 hrs 20 min flying time)
- 17.45 Arrive Bangkok
Overnight stop

Sunday 7 August

- Talks with Prem
Visit Cambodian border by helicopter
- 19.00 Depart Bangkok for Bahrain
(8 hrs 25 mins flying time)
- 23.25 Arrive Bahrain
Technical stop (1 hr)

Monday 8 August

- 00.25 Depart Bahrain for LHR
(7 hrs 50 mins flying time)
- 06.15 Arrive LHR

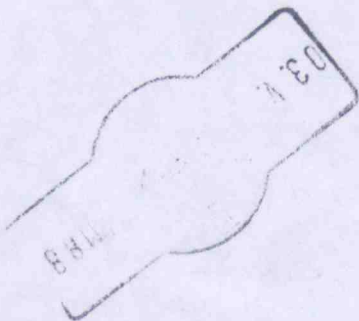
Note: Timings might vary by 5 or 10 minutes

PMAAAC

PM TOURS ABROAD

PM VISITS TO AUSTRIA

JAN 88





10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

27 April, 1988.

From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

I have seen copies of Canberra telegrams 280, 281 and 282 dealing with the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. You may find it helpful to have some comments:

- the Prime Minister is keen to visit Perth, and we should keep it in the programme. This means working on the basis of Programme A;

- under the revised proposals which I put to you in my letter of 25 April, the Prime Minister could arrive in Perth by 1400 on 1 August. That would leave ample time for engagements in Perth that day. I think the Prime Minister might prefer the engagements in question to receiving a succession of Ministers in Canberra (as envisaged in Programme B);

- an alternative - which I favour less but need not be discarded completely - would be to stop-over in Perth on the return journey. It would substitute for the technical stop-over in Singapore while en route Brisbane-Bangkok;

- Mr. Thatcher will on present plans accompany the Prime Minister. I am not expecting any other member of the Prime Minister's family to do so;

- Programme A is a broadly acceptable basis for planning. My main concern about it is the preponderance of lunches, dinners and receptions, and the relative lack of 'hard' newsworthy events except at EXPO 88. Perhaps this is inevitable for this sort of visit to Australia. But would it be heretical to suggest dropping the lunches on 3 and/or 4 August and either the dinner or the reception on 3 August? And perhaps add one or two events such as walkabouts or visits which would attract some media coverage?

- as regards the Opposition, I agree that we need to tread carefully. Under Programme A there is in fact no provision for calls by Opposition leaders in Canberra, only

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a meeting in Sydney. I would have thought that enough. But Mr. Coles should be aware that Mr. Howard wrote to the Prime Minister in February saying that he hoped she would make time available for an appropriate Liberal Party-sponsored function, and mentioned hosting a public luncheon in Sydney. The Prime Minister replied only that she would bear the suggestion in mind.

- subject to these points, I would be content for Mr. Coles to discuss a programme on these lines with the Australian authorities without commitment.

C.D. Powell

R.N. Culshaw, Esq., MVO,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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M I P T: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

PROGRAMME B

SUNDAY 31 JULY

1.	LATE AFTERNOON	ARRIVE PERTH
2.		TO HOTEL
3.	(IF TIME)	SWAN RIVER CRUISE
4.	1930	OFFICIAL DINNER
5.	2100	AUSTRALIAN BREAKFAST TV AND ABC RADIO INTERVIEWS

MONDAY 1 AUGUST

6.	0800	VISIT BRITISH-CONNECTED INSTITUTION OR SWAN RIVER CRUISE
7.	0930	DEPART PERTH FOR CANBERRA
8.	1530	ARRIVE CANBERRA
9.	1550	ARRIVE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE
10.	1630	CALL ON GOVERNOR-GENERAL
11.	1715	CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HAWKE
12.	2015	DINNER OFFERED BY MR HAWKE

TUESDAY 2 AUGUST

13.	0900	LEADER OF OPPOSITION CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER
14.	0945	VISIT AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
15.	1015	VISIT NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE
16.	1100	NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: SPEECH AND QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION
17.	1215	RETURN TO HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE
18.	1230	LUNCH HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER
19.	1500	FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE MINISTER CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER
20.	1545	DEFENCE MINISTER CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER

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21. 1630 LEADER OF NATIONAL PARTY CALLS ON

PRIME MINISTER

22. 1730 MEET HIGH COMMISSION STAFF
23. 1830 RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER
HOSTED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
24. 2015 PRIVATE SUPPER

WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST

25. 0735 DEPART RESIDENCE
26. 0800 DEPART CANBERRA FOR MELBOURNE
27. 0900 ARRIVE MELBOURNE
28. 0940 ARRIVE HOTEL
29. 1030-1200 VISITS IN MELBOURNE
30. 1230 OFFICIAL LUNCH ?
31. 1430 MELBOURNE TV STATION INTERVIEW
32. 1500 VISIT BRITISH FIRM OR CAPTAIN COOK'S
COTTAGE
33. 1700 RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER,
GIVEN BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
34. 1900 OFFICIAL DINNER

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST

35. 0820 DEPART HOTEL
36. 0900 DEPART MELBOURNE FOR SYDNEY
37. 1000 ARRIVE SYDNEY
38. 1030 ARRIVE HOTEL
39. 1130 VISIT IN SYDNEY
40. 1230 OFFICIAL LUNCH ?
41. 1500 VISIT DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT
42. 1600 PRIVATE MEETING HOSTED BY LEADER OF
OPPOSITION
43. 1800 RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER
GIVEN BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
44. 1930 PRIME MINISTER HOSTS DINNER FOR
PROMINENT BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESSMEN. FOLLOWED BY AUSTRALIAN
BREAKFAST TV INTERVIEW

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

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45. 0700 DEPART HOTEL
46. 0730 DEPART SYDNEY FOR BRISBANE
47. 0900 ARRIVE BRISBANE
48. 0930 ARRIVE HOTEL
49. 1045 ARRIVE WORLD EXPO 88, CALL ON
COMMISSIONER-GENERAL, 5 MINUTE SPEECH
OPENING BRITISH DAY, TOUR AUSTRALIAN
AND QUEENSLAND PAVILIONS
50. 1300 OFFICIAL LUNCH
51. 1430 TOUR BRITISH PAVILION
52. 1515 VISIT YOUNG ENDEAVOUR
53. 1545 FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE FOLOWED BY
I NTERVIEWS WITH BRITISH MEDIA
54. 1700 RETURN TO HOTEL
55. 1830 PRIME MINISTER HOSTS RECEPTION/SUPPER
CRUISE ON PADDLE STEAMER WITH
PROMINENT AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH GUESTS
56. 2000 ATTEND ''LAST NIGHT OF PROMS'' AT EXPO 88
57. 2100 ATTEND LAST ACT OF ROYAL BALLET
58. BRIEFLY ATTEND RECEPTION FOR ROYAL
BALLET CAST AND OTHERS.
59. RETURN TO HOTEL

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST

60. 0900 TOUR BRITISH STORE PROMOTION IN BRISBANE
61. 1000 LEAVE BRISBANE TO RETURN TO UK

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M I P T: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

PROGRAMME A

MONDAY 1 AUGUST

1.	LATE AFTERNOON	ARRIVE PERTH
2.		TO HOTEL
3.	(IF TIME)	SWAN RIVER CRUISE
4.	1930	OFFICIAL DINNER
5.	2100	AUSTRALIAN BREAKFAST TV AND ABC RADIO INTERVIEWS

TUESDAY 2 AUGUST

6.	0800	DEPART FOR CANBERRA
7.	1400	ARRIVE CANBERRA
8.	1430	ARRIVE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE
9.	1530	CALL ON GOVERNOR-GENERAL
10.	1615	CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HAWKE
11.	1830	MEET HIGH COMMISSION STAFF
12.	1930	DINNER OFFERED BY PRIME MINISTER HAWKE

WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST

13.	0900	LEADER OF OPPOSITION CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER
14.	1000	VISIT AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
15.	1030	VISIT NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE
16.	1130	NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: SPEECH AND QUESTION ANSWER SESSION
17.	1230	RETURN TO HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE
18.	1245	LUNCH HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER
19.	1430	DEPART FOR MELBOURNE
20.	1530	ARRIVE MELBOURNE
21.	1600	ARRIVE HOTEL
22.	1730	RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER

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23. 1930 GIVEN BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
OFFICIAL DINNER

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST

24. 0800 BREAKFAST TV INTERVIEW
25. 0830 VISIT BRITISH FACTORY
26. 1000 LEAVE FOR SYDNEY
27. 1100 ARRIVE SYDNEY
28. 1130 ARRIVE HOTEL
29. 1230 OFFICIAL LUNCH
30. 1500 VISIT DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT
31. 1600 PRIVATE MEETING HOSTED BY LEADER
OF OPPOSITION
32. 1800 RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER,
GIVEN BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
33. 1930 PRIME MINISTER HOSTS DINNER FOR
PROMINENT BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESSMEN

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

34. 0730 DEPART FOR BRISBANE
35. 0900 ARRIVE BRISBANE
36. 0930 ARRIVE HOTEL
37. 1045 ARRIVE WORLD EXPO 88, CALL ON
COMMISSIONER-GENERAL, 5 MINUTE SPEECH
OPENING BRITISH DAY, TOUR AUSTRALIAN AND
QUEENSLAND PAVILIONS
38. 1300 OFFICIAL LUNCH
39. 1430 TOUR BRITISH PAVILION
40. 1515 VISIT YOUNG ENDEAVOUR
RQM 41.1545 FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED BY
INTERVIEWS WITH BRITISH MEDIA
42. 1700 RETURN TO HOTEL
43. 1830 PRIME MINISTER HOSTS RECEPTION/SUPPER
CRUISE ON PADDLE STEAMER WITH PROMINENT
AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH GUESTS
44. 2000 ATTEND 'LAST NIGHT OF PROMS' AT EXPO 88
45. 2100 ATTEND LAST ACT OF ROYAL BALLET
46. BRIEFLY ATTEND RECEPTION FOR ROYAL BALLET
CAST AND OTHERS
47. RETURN TO HOTEL

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SATURDAY 6 AUGUST

48. 0900
49. 1000

TOUR BRITISH STORE PROMOTION IN BRISBANE
LEAVE BRISBANE TO RETURN TO UK.

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YOUR TELNO 179: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

1. MY TWO IFT'S CONTAINS ALTERNATIVE OUTLINE PROGRAMMES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT ALL WITH THE AUSTRALIANS WHO OF COURSE MAY HAVE QUITE OTHER IDEAS. PROGRAMME A IS BASED ON ARRIVAL AT PERTH ON MONDAY, 1 AUGUST, PROGRAMME B ON ARRIVAL ON SUNDAY, 31 JULY.
2. PROGRAMME A IS VERY TIGHT. IT INVOLVES A FLIGHT EVERY DAY, INCLUDING ON THE SECOND DAY THE FOUR HOUR FLIGHT FROM PERTH TO CANBERRA. PROGRAMME B IS SOMEWHAT LESS TIGHT, ALLOWS THE PRIME MINISTER A LITTLE MORE TIME IN PERTH AND A GOOD DEAL MORE IN CANBERRA, BUT IT STILL INVOLVES A LOT OF TIME IN THE AIR.
3. I ORIGINALLY FAVOURED A STOP IN PERTH TO GIVE MRS THATCHER SOME TIME TO REST AFTER THE FLIGHT FROM LONDON BEFORE HER PROGRAMME IN CANBERRA. BUT IF (CULSHAW'S LETTER OF 23 MARCH TO POWELL) A STOP-OVER IS ENVISAGED ELSEWHERE EN ROUTE, THE CASE FOR GOING TO PERTH IS MUCH LESS STRONG. I WOULD RECOMMEND CUTTING IT OUT AND COMING STRAIGHT TO CANBERRA.
4. ON SPEECHES, I RECOMMEND THAT THE MAJOR ONE IS GIVEN AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA. AT EXPO (BRISBANE) I DOUBT IF THE ENVIRONMENT WILL LEND ITSELF TO A SUBSTANTIAL SPEECH. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE ON A PLATFORM IN THE OPEN AIR AND THERE WILL BE A GOOD DEAL OF NOISE FROM CROWDS, TRAFFIC ETC. I THEREFORE SUGGEST A SHORTISH (5 MINUTE) SPEECH THERE BUT A SUBSTANTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE LATER IN THE DAY.
5. I HAVE OF COURSE NOT DISCUSSED ANY PROGRAMME DETAILS YET WITH THE AUSTRALIANS THOUGH THEIR PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT WISH TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH ME SOON. AT THAT POINT THE QUESTION WILL ARISE OF WHAT MEETINGS THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD HAVE WITH THE OPPOSITION. GIVEN LABOR'S RECENT ELECTORAL REVERSES (MY TELNO 276) THAT IS LIKELY TO BE A SENSITIVE POINT. I SEE NO DIFFICULTY ABOUT SUGGESTING THAT JOHN HOWARD (LIBERAL PARTY) AND IAN SINCLAIR (NATIONAL PARTY) SHOULD CALL ON MRS THATCHER

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IN CANBERRA BUT HOWARD IS LIKELY TO PRESS FOR MORE THAN THAT. I HAVE THEREFORE PROVIDED IN THE PROGRAMME FOR A FURTHER PRIVATE MEETING IN SYDNEY WHERE I ENVISAGE THAT HOWARD MIGHT WANT TO HAVE HIS SHADOW CABINET COLLEAGUES PRESENT AND PERHAPS INVITE OTHERS. I DO NOT KNOW HOW THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL REACT TO THAT IDEA.

6. MY PLAN NOW IS THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COMMENTS, I SHOULD HAVE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROGRAMME WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DISCUSS THE DETAILS FURTHER WITH THE CONSULS-GENERAL AT OUR MEETING IN CANBERRA ON 30/31 MAY AND THEN TELEGRAPH TO YOU A REVISED DRAFT PROGRAMME.

7. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:-

A. IN THE LIGHT OF PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 ABOVE WILL THE PRIME MINISTER STILL START HER PROGRAMME IN PERTH ?.

B. IF SO, ON MONDAY OR SUNDAY ?.

C. WILL MR THATCHER OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE FAMILY ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER ?.

D. IS PROGRAMME A OR B BROADLY ACCEPTABLE TO NO 10 AS A BASIS FOR PLANNING ?.

E. SHOULD ANY EVENTS BE DELETED OR ADDED ?.

F. MAY I BE AUTHORISED TO TRY TO INCLUDE THE ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE OPPOSITION SUGGESTED IN PARA 5 ABOVE AND TO RESIST ANY PROPOSALS FOR HIGHER PROFILE, MORE PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH THE OPPOSITION, WHICH COULD TURN THE VISIT PRETTY SOUR ?.

8. I PROPOSE TO STICK TO THE LINE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT ALL PROGRAMME PLANNING IS ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, THAT A FIRM DECISION ON THE VISIT WILL NOT BE TAKEN FOR SOME TIME AND THAT FOR SECURITY AND OTHER REASONS WE WISH TO KEEP THE DATES CONFIDENTIAL.

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1988

Dear Robert,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter of 22 April with an itinerary for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. This is in general very much on the right lines, with some minor modifications. Thus:

- the Prime Minister would want only talks with the Sultan in Muscat (or Salalah) not a more extensive visit. Her preference would therefore be to leave London at say 0800 on Saturday 30 July for talks with the Sultan that evening;
- she would like to leave Muscat (or Salalah) earlier on 31 July, say 0730, to get to Singapore by 1900;
- indeed an alternative would be not to overnight in Muscat (or Salalah) at all but to rejoin the aircraft after dinner, leaving for Singapore at 2330. This would presumably get us to Singapore at about 1015 on 31 July, which would allow an afternoon or early evening meeting. On the whole that would be the Prime Minister's preference;
- we could then make an earlier departure from Singapore on 1 August - say 0900 - getting us to Perth by 1400;
- the Prime Minister would indeed like to visit a refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodia border and we must leave ample time for this. I am inclined to think, therefore, that we should give the Prime Minister slightly longer in Thailand and bargain on getting back to London at breakfast time on Monday 8 August.

I should be grateful if the experts could have one final go at this, without the overnight stop at Muscat (or Salalah), after which we can begin to put forward proposals to the governments concerned.

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There remains the question of the type of aircraft (your letter of 13 April). I do not think that accommodation for eight press men will meet demand. Could Conference Section please obtain a quotation from British Airways for the charter of a larger aircraft for the whole journey so that we can consider that option? Could it be fitted with tables and beds for the Prime Minister's compartment?

Yours sincerely,
Chris Powell

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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