

Can't we see  
 something more - visit a  
 farm - see the flying doctor  
 service - see how children in  
 remote places are  
 taught by T.V.  
 - do a  
 phone in  
 of people  
 for  
 remote  
 parts?

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

I attach John Coles' proposals for your programme in Australia. As you will see, it has a large number of rather formal events: a lunch, a reception and a dinner virtually every day. In the main these are not our idea: they are proposed by the various State Governments and are a mark of your popularity. There are a fair number of commercial visits to help our exports, several interviews and one major speech. I am afraid there is relatively little which is pleasurable or imaginative. I have asked Carol and Alistair McAlpine for some ideas, but nothing has come yet.

Although there is only one major speech, there will be quite a number of smaller ones at lunches and dinners. But John Coles advises that these need be only 2/3 minutes each and generally impromptu, except for the Australian Government dinner and the opening of British Day at Expo 88.

The first and main question is whether you are prepared to subject yourself to this ordeal? It is not a frivolous question: it is a very full programme at the end of a parliamentary session and meeting so many people at receptions and meals is very tiring. The only alleviating factor is that there are no particularly difficult talks or negotiations.

In addition there are a number of specific questions:

- are you content to open the new Rolls-Royce turbine blade factory in Perth? John Coles strongly recommends this. You would probably do it in conjunction with the Australian Defence Minister (Labour).
- would you be willing to plant another tree in the High Commissioner's garden? The last one is doing well.

- agree that John should give a reception in your honour at Canberra?
  
- there are some problems over accommodation. John wants for you to stay in a hotel in Perth, but you are keen on Alistair's house. Agree that I should insist on the house, provided there is security clearance? And in Sydney, the Australian Government want to put you up in the Regent Hotel, while Alistair wants you to stay in the Intercontinental (which is his). Again, agree that I should courteously but firmly insist on the Intercontinental?
  
- lastly there is the question of a meeting with the Opposition. The proposal is that you should receive a call from Mr Howard in Canberra but not attend any more public functions (Mr Howard was earlier talking of hosting an Opposition lunch for you). I think it is probably better to stick to protocol on this. If you attend a lunch, you will have to speak and it will probably leak and be used to cause embarrassment. Agree to a call by Mr Howard but nothing more?

CJP

Charles Powell

3 June 1988