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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter of 2 June about the stopovers in Singapore and Bangkok, on the Prime Minister's journey to and from Australia.

Singapore

I wonder whether we ought not to have a single, photogenic engagement at about 4 p.m. in the afternoon (to allow time for a rest on arrival). I have no particular suggestion but the Post might be asked for a recommendation.

Thailand

I agree that we should go ahead with plans for the visit despite the general election. I am less happy with the prospect of 1½ hours in a helicopter. It is an exceptionally long journey. What sort of helicopter would it be? Can some of the journey be undertaken by aircraft? How much closer is Site 2 closer than Site B (in journey time)? Would there not be some other way of 'noticing' Prince Siharouk (the Prime Minister is of course to see him in September)? I think we need to go into all this in more detail before reaching a decision.

The other proposals look fine. The Prime Minister will presumably need to make a speech at the dinner and you will want to commission a draft.

Charles Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*From the Private Secretary*

3 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

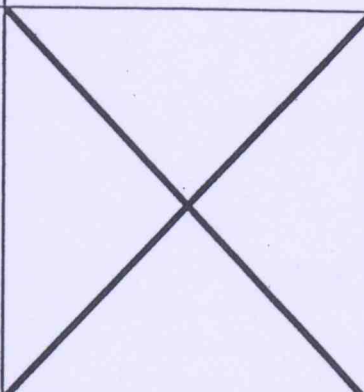
Thank you for your letter of 3 June with the revised fits for the VC10 for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. I think this solves the problem. I agree that we should offer passage to the High Commissioner and his wife and to four Australian officials while in Australia.

Charles Powell

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

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# **A** The National Archives

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DC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 June 1988

*Dear Charles*

Prime Minister's visit to Australia

*Alap*

As promised in Tony Galsworthy's letter of 13 May, we have taken action with our posts. I enclose draft programmes for the Prime Minister's stopovers in Singapore and Bangkok which are subject to the following comments.

Singapore

Officials in Singapore foresee no difficulties with what is proposed and think it probable that Lee Kuan Yew will wish to host a dinner. Formal confirmation will follow when we have it.

Thailand

It is unlikely to be possible to finalise the programme until shortly before the visit. The general election due on 24 July could result in another coalition Government which may take some weeks to form. Agreement on a new Cabinet may take longer. However, the present expectation is that General Prem will return as Prime Minister. He has already personally welcomed the proposed visit and Thai politicians and officials are firm that it should go ahead. Our Ambassador's assessment is that the new Prime Minister should be known by the time of the visit, even if he has not been formally appointed, and that there are no other likely candidates for the office whom it would not be suitable for the Prime Minister to meet.

The Thais say that General Prem (assuming he is indeed the new Prime Minister) would almost certainly wish to offer a dinner for the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher on the evening of 6 August. This might be preceded by a short call (say 30 minutes) for official talks.

In these circumstances a call on the morning of 7 August would not be necessary, which opens the way to an early start for the border. This in turn would permit an audience with the King of Thailand, which the Thais are likely to favour, in the afternoon (the only time audiences are granted). It would also leave time for a press conference.

/There



There are two options for a visit to the border: Site 2, administered by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), or Site B, run by elements loyal to Prince Sihanouk. (The KPNLF and the Sihanoukists are the non-Communist factions of the tri-partite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which opposes the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia). Site B seems to us the more suitable.

Sihanouk is likely to be in Thailand at the time and to wish to receive the Prime Minister personally at Site B, should she decide to go there. This could be an effective way of demonstrating our support for the Prince, whose involvement is a sine qua non for a settlement of the Cambodia question. Site 2 is admittedly more photogenic, with its much larger population (200,000 compared with 40,000 at Site B). However, the likely presence of Sihanouk at Site B and our wish to support him politically lead us to advise Site B over Site 2.

Site B is further from Bangkok than Site 2. But a 7.30 start from the Residence means ample time (1½ hours) to tour the camp and meet Sihanouk. We have no precise timing for the audience with the King. However we will ensure sufficient time to freshen up and change clothing between the return to Bangkok and the audience. The programme will also ensure adequate facilities for the press to keep up with what will be a fairly tight schedule.

Although neither programme is yet firm, it would be useful to have your views and suggestions on what is now emerging. We can then go back to post and finalise the details.

*Yours ever*  
*Bob Peirce*  
(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street

PM TOURS : Australasia Jan 88

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR SINGAPORE

SATURDAY 30 JULY

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

SATURDAY 31 JULY

11.15 Arrive Singapore.

Evening Talks/Dinner with Lee Kuan Yew. Overnight stop.

MONDAY 1 AUGUST

09.00 Depart Singapore for Perth (5 hrs flying time).

14.00 Arrive Perth.



DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR THAILAND

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST

09.00 Depart Brisbane.  
17.45 Arrive via technical stopover in Singapore.  
19.00 Call on Prime Minister followed by  
19.30 Dinner.

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST

07.30 Depart Residence for Don Muang Airport.  
08.00 Depart by helicopter.  
09.30 Arrive Ban Lan Thae Helipad. Depart by road.  
10.00 Arrive Site B. Discussions with Prince Sihanouk  
or his representative. Possibly hand over aid.  
Tour camp.  
11.30 Depart by road for helipad.  
12.00 Depart by helicopter for Bangkok.  
Lunch on board.  
13.30 Arrive Don Muang Airport.  
Return to Residence.  
14.00 Arrive Residence.  
15.30 Depart for Chitralada Palace.  
16.00 Audience with HM King.  
16.45 Depart Chitralada Palace.  
17.15 Arrive Residence.  
17.30 Press Conference at Residence.  
18.15 Depart Residence for Don Muang Airport.  
18.45 Arrive Airport.  
Farewells.  
19.00 Depart for London.

MONDAY 8 AUGUST

06.15 Arrive LHR (via Bahrain).