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FM CANBERRA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 465
OF 230715Z JUNE 88

Prime Minister
I hope very
much that you
will agree with this advice?

COO
23/6

MY TELNO 458: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. IN MY T.U.R. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO DINNER FROM THE LIBERAL PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES THAT TOGETHER WITH OTHER EVENTS ALREADY AGREED, PROBABLY OUGHT TO BE THE LIMIT FOR CONTACTS WITH THE OPPOSITION WHILE SHE WAS IN AUSTRALIA.

2. A MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF MR JOHN HOWARD, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, RANG MY STAFF THIS MORNING TO ASK WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH HOWARD ON WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST COULD BE FOLLOWED BY A SHORT MEETING OF ALL LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTY MPS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ADDRESS FOR "ABOUT FIVE MINUTES".

3. THIS IS AN OPENLY POLITICAL GAMBIT. THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT OF COURSE MEETING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING PARTY. SHE HAS ALREADY AGREED TO A MEETING WITH MR HOWARD AND I HAVE SUGGESTED, AS INSTRUCTED EARLIER, THAT HE MIGHT LIKE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUES. BUT A FULL PARTY OCCASION IS ANOTHER MATTER AND TO GO ALONG WITH THIS WOULD, I THINK, PUT THE NOSES OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHO ARE AFTER ALL THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOSTS, OUT OF JOINT.

4. THERE IS ALSO A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. THE NEXT EVENT AFTER THE CALL ON THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IS TO BE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MAJOR SPEECH AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. I HAVE PROVIDED 30 SPARE MINUTES IN THE PROGRAMME BEFORE THIS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO PREPARE FOR THIS OCCASION AT THE RESIDENCE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A MEETING WITH ALL LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTY MPS COULD POSSIBLY BE FINISHED IN FIVE MINUTES AND I AM AFRAID IT WOULD CUT DEEPLY INTO THAT TIME.

5. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT I AM AUTHORISED TO SAY TO MR HOWARD'S OFFICE THAT WE MUCH REGRET THAT THERE IS NO TIME AVAILABLE IN THE PROGRAMME FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN THE MEETING WITH MR HOWARD, AND IF HE LIKES A FEW OF HIS SHADOW CABINET COLLEAGUES, WHICH HAS

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ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED. IF HE THEN SUGGESTS THAT THE PARTY MEETING SHOULD REPLACE THE CALL ON HIM, I WOULD SAY THAT I THOUGHT THIS IMPORTED TOO MUCH OF A PARTY CHARACTER INTO THE PROCEEDINGS AND HOPED WE COULD STICK WITH THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.

6. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

COLES

YYYY

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bc: PC

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

I have seen a copy of Canberra telegram number 458 with a revised itinerary for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. I think the additional proposals are fine, although I am concerned that the dinner will mean yet another speech. Is an audience of 300-400 guests really going to be satisfied with two or three minutes off-the-cuff, as suggested in earlier correspondence? Perhaps we could get this clear.

Charles Powell

Bob Peiree, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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FM CANBERRA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 458
QF 220800Z JUNE 88

YOUR TELNOS 320 AND 328: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

1. WE HAVE INCORPORATED A VISIT TO ALICE SPRINGS INTO THE PROGRAMME, AND HAVE PUT A PERTH WALKABOUT ITINERARY TO THE AUSTRALIANS. WE AWAIT FROM YOU THE NAMES OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMEN.

SYDNEY

2. THE NSW PREMIER, GREINER, HAS NOW SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HOST AN OFFICIAL DINNER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, RATHER THAN A LUNCH. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUCH A FUNCTION WOULD BE A LARGE AFFAIR WITH 300-400 GUESTS, INCLUDING MANY LIBERAL PARTY NOTABLES.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT IN CANBERRA HAVE SAID THEY HAVE NO, REPEAT NO, OBJECTION TO GREINER'S PROPOSAL. IF IT WERE TO TAKE PLACE, THE EFFECT ON THE PROGRAMME IN SYDNEY WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST

- 1100 ARRIVE SYDNEY
- 1135 ARRIVE INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL
- 1210 DEPART HOTEL
- 1215-
- 1245 CALL ON PREMIER OF NSW
- 1300-
- 1430 PRIME MINISTER HOSTS LUNCH FOR PROMINENT AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMEN (IN AN HOTEL)
- 1500-
- 1530 A VISIT INVOLVING BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

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(THE FERRANTI VISIT PROPOSAL NO LONGER BEING FEASIBLE)

1600-

1705 WALKABOUT IN DARLING HARBOUR, INCLUDING VISIT TO VIRGIN
MEGASTORE, AND VISIT POWERHOUSE MUSEUM (NB THIS IS STILL
BEING CHECKED OUT)

1715 ARRIVE HOTEL

LATER LIVE NATIONAL TELEVISION INTERVIEW (NB TIMINGS DEPEND ON
T V STATION CHOSEN)

1945

FOR

2015 OFFICIAL DINNER OFFERED BY STATE GOVERNMENT

4. YOU WILL SEE THAT THIS OMITTS MY PROPOSED RECEPTION FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER. IT IS LIKELY THAT MANY OF THOSE I WOULD
WISH TO INVITE WOULD BE AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER, GIVEN ITS SIZE,
ANYWAY. FURTHERMORE, THE REVISED TIMINGS ARE SUCH THAT THE PRIME
MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE RECEPTION WOULD BE LIMITED TO ONLY
30 - 45 MINUTES.

5. GREINER IS THE NEW AND AMBITIOUS LIBERAL PREMIER FOR NEW
SOUTH WALES. IF THE PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTS HIS INVITATION, HE
MAY WELL TRY TO GIVE THE EVENT A "'PRO-OPPOSTION'" FLAVOUR.
NEVERTHELESS, HE IS WITHIN HIS RIGHTS AS PREMIER OF THE STATE
THE PRIME MINISTER IS VISITING AND AS STATED ABOVE THE FEDERAL
PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAVE RAISED NO OBJECTION (THOUGH
THEY DID NOT CONSULT HAWKE BEFORE TELLING US SO). I THEREFORE
RECOMMEND THAT GREINER'S INVITATION BE ACCEPTED. BUT I THINK
THAT IT, TOGETHER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH JOHN
HOWARD IN CANBERRA, WILL CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT GESTURE TOWARDS
THE OPPOSTION. TO GO FURTHER DOWN THAT TRACK COULD WELL OFFEND
THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOSTS (THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT).

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