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Papua NS

cc Martin



FILE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1981

Visit of Sir Julius Chan

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Julius Chan, called on the Prime Minister this morning. Most of the conversation was of a very general kind relating to the situation in Papua New Guinea and to recent international political developments. However, one or two points may be worth recording.

Sir Julius said that he very much hoped that a senior British Minister would visit Papua New Guinea before too long. He had invited both the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Trade. He would of course be particularly pleased if the Prime Minister herself were able to come. The Prime Minister said that she had taken note of what Sir Julius had said and very much hoped that it would be possible to arrange such a visit by one of her colleagues.

In response to a question from Sir Julius about the attitude of the new French Government to the Pacific, the Prime Minister said that she expected President Mitterrand's Administration to be sympathetic to the Third World generally. This would be particularly true if M. Sheysson had a leading role. Sir Julius then asked about the British Government's attitude. The Prime Minister said that we maintained our interest. She enquired whether Sir Julius was implying that we should be more strongly represented in the region. He said that he was well content with the present situation.

/ The Prime Minister

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- 2 -

The Prime Minister thanked him for the help which the Government of Papua New Guinea had given in dealing with last year's difficulties in the New Hebrides.

Sir Julius asked which subjects the Prime Minister thought would be discussed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne. The Prime Minister said that she assumed that North/South problems and South Africa would be the main issues. Sir Julius agreed. He thought a particular problem might be the South African rugby tour of New Zealand. He himself would like to see the matter left on one side but doubted whether this would be possible. The issue might give rise to major difficulties for Mr. Fraser. There might, for instance, be substantial demonstrations in Melbourne.

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