

NOTE : I wrote to Sir A Acland's office regarding the joint view. Pl BF to John Coles on 29/9.

I should prefer to decide after my own visit to China. All

PRIME MINISTER

These matters must be viewed in the light of discussions over Hong Kong, not

The Chairman of the Royal Opera House has invited Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, to attend the Company's gala performances at Seoul and Peking in May of next year. The Queen would welcome Ministerial advice on this.

Princess Margaret would like to attend the performance in Peking but not the one in Seoul. The Royal Ballet have said that they would finance this trip themselves if the cost cannot be met from official funds.

As you know, the Chinese Government are hoping for a visit by The Queen, and the Royal Visits Committee takes the view that proposals for earlier visits by members of the Royal Family such as Princess Margaret should have lower priority. A visit by the Princess would probably have little political impact, and the FCO are not convinced that the cost of about £35,000 would be justified.

Mr. Pym is, however, strongly in favour of a member of the Royal Family attending the performance in Seoul, primarily because of the centenary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with Korea next year.

You will see from the attached papers that both Sir Antony Acland and Sir Robert Armstrong feel that Mr. Pym should be advised to support a proposal that Princess Margaret should be asked to attend the Royal Ballet gala opening in Seoul; that there is no objection to her visiting China; and that we should undertake to give financial support for a combined visit to Seoul and Peking. They both feel that a visit to Peking alone would not warrant the expenditure of public money.

Are you content that Mr. Pym should advise the Palace in this way?

Or would you prefer to defer a decision until after your visit to China?

10 August 1982

W Rickett

Royal Family

File 16



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 August 1982

PROPOSED VISIT BY PRINCESS MARGARET TO CHINA

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Anthony Acland's letter to Sir Robert Armstrong of 5 August, as well as Sir Robert's reply of 9 August. She feels that a decision on the advice to be given to the Palace about Princess Margaret's visit should not be made until after she has returned from her visit to the Far East. She would like to consider this matter in the light of her discussions with the Chinese, both on the future of Hong Kong, and on the prospects of a visit by The Queen.

I am copying this letter to Sir Philip Moore and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Michael Jay, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Handwritten initials

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Royal Family



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 August 1982

Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick MVO
Kensington Palace
LONDON W8

Antony Acland sent you an interim reply on 8 July to your letter of 30 June about the suggestion that Princess Margaret might visit China next May for the Royal Ballet's Gala opening in Peking.

It now seems likely that we shall not be able to let you have our view until after the Prime Minister returns from her visit to the Far East at the end of September. The Prime Minister, who is aware of the invitation to Princess Margaret and of Her Royal Highness's views, feels that final advice to Her Royal Highness on the visit should be formulated in the light of her own discussions with the Chinese on the future of Hong Kong and other matters.

J L Bullard

bcc The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore KCB KCVO CMG
Buckingham Palace

Private Secretary, No 10 Downing Street

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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref: A09260

9th August 1982

Thank you for your letter of 5th August about the visit which it has been proposed Princess Margaret should pay to China to attend the Royal Ballet's Gala Performance in Peking.

I agree with your general approach. I do not think that a visit by Princess Margaret to Peking alone would warrant the expenditure of public funds which official support would entail. If, on the other hand, she were willing to go to Seoul, there is a good case for official support for such a visit; and it would then be reasonable to cover the marginal additional cost of the visit to Peking as well. I agree therefore with the advice which you propose to give to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary as set out in paragraph 6 of your letter

I am sending copies of this letter to Willie Rickett (in Clive Whitmore's absence) and to Philip Moore.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG, KCVO

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

5 August 1982

My dear Robert,

PROPOSED VISIT BY PRINCESS MARGARET TO CHINA

1. I attach a copy of a letter from Lord Napier and Ettrick seeking the FCO's views on an invitation by the Chairman of the Royal Opera House, Sir Claus Moser, to Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, to attend the Company's Gala performance at Seoul and Peking on 20 or 21 May and a date to be arranged between 25 May and 1 June respectively, during their Far East tour next year. As you will see, Princess Margaret has said that she would like to attend the Gala opening in Peking but not the opening in Seoul.

2. We have known for some time that the Royal Ballet intended to invite Princess Margaret to attend these two occasions.

Passage deleted and closed under FOI

Exemption. Wayland

17 April 2014

We earlier suggested informally to the Royal Ballet that they might wish to invite Princess Margaret to go to Hong Kong instead of Peking since this gala performance is the most important occasion of the tour. Perhaps because they know that she is interested only in visiting China (in which she may have been encouraged by the Chinese Ambassador here), the Royal Ballet have evidently decided instead to maintain their invitation to her to attend the Peking opening. We have been told informally that even if the costs to China by Princess Margaret could not be met from official funds the Royal Ballet would be able to finance the trip themselves.

3. You will remember that the Royal Visits Committee decided at its last meeting that if a State Visit were planned for 1984, proposals for earlier visits by the Duke of Edinburgh, by the Prince and Princess of Wales and by Princess Margaret would all have lower priority. Our concern was whether the likely outlay of official funds involved would justify visits which, with the



exception perhaps of one by the Prince of Wales, would lack any significant political impact. The Dukes of Kent and Gloucester have already visited China, most other European Heads of State have also already been there and the Chinese Government now hope for a visit by The Queen. The cost of a visit by Princess Margaret to Peking alone would be likely to be of the order of £30-35,000.

4. We do not want to make difficulties about this visit. I know that the Ambassador in Peking is concerned that Princess Margaret should recognise that a visit to China will not be particularly comfortable. If she and her party wish to stay at the Residence she should be aware that his facilities there are limited. Of course if she were a guest of the Chinese Government she would probably be offered a guest house which would be comfortable though isolated. Travelling around the country would be somewhat rugged, but the Embassy would do their best to ease the way. Sir Percy Cradock will be glad to welcome Princess Margaret if the visit takes place and I do not think we could find any grounds to object if the Royal Ballet are prepared to pay. My only reservation in that case is that we should wait to give official confirmation that there is no problem over such a visit until after we have seen the results of the Prime Minister's visit in September.

5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is strongly in favour however of a member of the Royal Family attending the opening in Seoul, primarily in view of the centenary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with Korea which falls in 1983. Since the Prince of Wales does not wish to include any official visits on his way to Australia next year and since the timing would make it very difficult to add Seoul to Princess Alexandra's trip to Japan, one possible solution would be for Princess Margaret (in spite of her initial reluctance) to visit Seoul before going on to China a few days later. Since the assassination of President Park in 1979 and the eventual accession of President Chun in 1980, the Korean regime, though far from liberal, has shown itself increasingly confident in restoring a measure of democratic government. Relatively few political prisoners now remain in detention, the curfew imposed for many years has been lifted, and some energetic steps have been made to eliminate corruption. Korea is now an increasingly important potential market for both civil and defence sales from the United Kingdom. A Royal visit would have considerable impact. The inclusion of Seoul would also




underline Princess Margaret's role as President of the Royal Ballet and might reduce the risk of the Chinese feeling that her visit to Peking was made primarily as a member of the Royal Family and thus implied a further postponement of the State Visit. There would be no difficulty in our financing a visit to both Seoul and Peking (of the order of £40,000) if Princess Margaret were prepared to undertake a visit to both countries.

6. *Passage deleted and closed under FOI Exemption. (W)Wayland. 17 April 2014*

I should therefore be grateful for your views and those of Clive Whitmore, to whom I am also copying this letter, as to whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be advised to support a proposal that Princess Margaret be asked to attend the Royal Ballet's Gala opening in Seoul; that there is no objection to her visiting China; and that we should undertake to give financial support for a combined visit to Seoul and Peking (with the implication that the Royal Opera House should finance the visit if it were to China alone). In view of her forthcoming visit to China (on the outcome of which a decision about a visit by The Queen will depend) Clive Whitmore may think that the Prime Minister should be consulted before a reply is sent to Lord Napier.

Antony
Antony Acland

cc Clive Whitmore Esq 
The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore, KCB KCVO CMG

01 930 3141



IN CONFIDENCE

Hd/PCD for advice + aft
reply pse

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KENSINGTON PALACE
W. 8

cc HD/FEI
M. J. J. J.
PS/PUS
PS

30th June, 1982

Dear Antony.

BA
1/7

I am enclosing a copy of a personal letter to Princess Margaret from Sir Claus Moser dated the 9th June.

Her Royal Highness, after discussion with The Queen, has asked me to write to you personally.

The Princess is able, and indeed is keen, to undertake a visit to the People's Republic of China in May next year, but she would NOT wish to visit any of the other countries mentioned in Sir Claus's letter.

Whilst the main purpose of this proposed visit is in connection with the Royal Ballet, of which Princess Margaret is President, I know that Her Royal Highness would be only too pleased to undertake other engagements within China, if this was thought to be desirable.

I understand that The Queen would give her approval to such a visit, provided that the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no objection.

Princess Margaret would be grateful for your views.

Yours sincerely,
Richard

Private Secretary to
The Princess Margaret,
Countess of Snowdon

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG KCVO.



Royal Opera House

Covent Garden London WC2E 7QA
Telephone: 01-240 1200
Cables: Amidst London WC2

From Sir Claus Moser KCB *Chairman*

as from

New Court
St. Swithin's Lane
London EC4P 4DU
Telephone 01-626 4356

9th June 1982

Madam,

As I mentioned recently to Your Royal Highness, The Royal Ballet is scheduled to go to the United States and the Far East in the spring of 1983, leaving London on Saturday 16th April and returning on Monday 20th June. They will visit New York; Tokyo and other major cities in Japan; Seoul (Korea); Peking, Shanghai and Canton in China, and finally Hong Kong. A copy of their programme is enclosed.

The Royal Ballet's visit to Seoul, where they will be dancing THE SLEEPING BEAUTY and ROMEO AND JULIET, from 17th May to 21st May, has been planned to coincide with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Cultural Agreement between Korea and Great Britain. I am writing to ask whether Your Royal Highness might consent to attend a Gala Performance of THE SLEEPING BEAUTY on Friday 20th May or a performance of ROMEO AND JULIET on Saturday 21st May. Your presence would be greatly welcomed by the Korean Government, and - I need hardly say - by all of us.

I have an even more ambitious question to ask, namely whether Your Royal Highness would consider then travelling on to Peking to attend a Gala Performance on a date convenient to yourself between Wednesday 25th May and Wednesday 1st June. The opening performance of THE SLEEPING BEAUTY falls on Wednesday 25th May.

If, as we all very much hope, you would honour us with your presence on these two occasions, we will go ahead with the detailed arrangements. Pat Spooner has already been in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has talked to the Hon. Eustace Gibbs, Head of the Protocol and Conference Department, who has expressed keen interest in what is proposed. I should add that we hope to raise some money for the Development Appeal on these occasions, especially

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in Seoul, and I need hardly say how wonderful it would be from this point of view also if you were to agree to be present.

Your Royal Highness has always been such a marvellous supporter of everything the Royal Ballet does, and I am conscious that I am asking for a major travel and time commitment. I do so because I know how much your presence would mean to all of us from Covent Garden and to the large audiences we will be playing to.

I have the honour to be, Madam,
Your Royal Highness' humble and obedient servant,

Claus Moser

HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon
Kensington Palace
LONDON W8

1983 ROYAL BALLET TOUR TO USA AND FAR EAST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Saturday 16 April	Depart London		
Monday 18-23 April		New York - Metropolitan	Two Triple Bills (8 performances)
Sunday 24 April	USA to Tokyo by air		
Monday 25 April	Arrive Tokyo		
Tuesday 26 April		Day Off	
Wednesday 27 April	Rehearse		
Thursday 28 April		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	MANON (1)
Friday 29 April		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	MANON (2 & 3)
Saturday 30 April		"	LAC (1)
Sunday 1 May		"	LAC (2) Matinee
Monday 2 May		"	LAC (3)
Tuesday 3 May		Day Off	
Wednesday 4 May		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (1)
Thursday 5 May		"	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (2 & 3)
Friday 6 May	Osaka by air		
Saturday 7 May		Osaka Festival Hall	MANON (4)
Sunday 8 May		"	LAC (4 & 5)
Monday 9 May		Day Off	
Tuesday 10 May	Train Osaka/Nagoya/Usaka	Nagoya Shimin Kaikan	LAC (6)
Wednesday 11 May	Bus Osaka/Kobe/Usaka	Kobe Bunka Hall	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (4)
Thursday 12 May	Train Hiroshima	Hiroshima Yubin Chukin Hall	LAC (7)
Friday 13 May	Train Fukuoka	Fukouka Sun Palace	MANON (5)
Saturday 14 May		"	LAC (8)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Sunday	15 May	Fukuoka to Korea by air	
Monday	16 May	Day Off	
Tuesday	17 May	Seoul Cultural Centre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (1)
Wednesday	18 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (2 & 3)
Thursday	19 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (4)
Friday	20 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (5)
Saturday	21 May <i>Princen m?</i>	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (1 & 2)
Sunday	22 May	Tokyo to Peking (Beijing) by air	
Monday	23 May	Day Off	
Tuesday	24 May	Rehearse	
Wednesday	25 May <i>Princen m?</i>	Peking Tianquiao Theatre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (1)
Thursday	26 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (2 & 3)
Friday	27 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (4)
Saturday	28 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (5 & 6)
Sunday	29 May	Day Off	
Monday	30 May	Peking Tianquiao Theatre	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (1)
Tuesday	31 May	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (2)
Wednesday	1 June	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (3 & 4)
Thursday	2 June	Peking to Shanghai by air	
Friday	3 June	Day Off	
Saturday	4 June	Shanghai Municipal Government Hall	SLEEPING BEAUTY (7 & 8)
Sunday	5 June	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (9 & 10)
Monday	6 June	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (5)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Tuesday	7 June	Shanghai Municipal Government Hall	BATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (6)
Wednesday	8 June	Shanghai to Canton by air (Guangzhou)	
Thursday	9 June	Canton Friendship Theatre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (11)
Friday	10 June	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (12)
Saturday	11 June	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (13 & 14)
Sunday	12 June	Canton to Hong Kong by train	
Monday	13 June	Day Off	
Tuesday	14 June	Hong Kong Hung Hom Stadium	ROMEO AND JULIET (1)
Wednesday	15 June	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (2 & 3)
Thursday	16 June	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (4)
Friday	17 June	"	SWAN LAKE (1)
Saturday	18 June	"	SWAN LAKE (2 & 3)
Sunday	19 June	Return to London	
Monday	20 June	Arrive London	