



Royal Family
2.6 AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

FAR EAST TOUR OF THE ROYAL BALLET

I was grateful for your minute of 15 September (A09475) about the proposals for the Royal Ballet's Far East tour, which I was glad to have with me on our trip.

So far as John Coles and I are aware, nothing came up in Peking which had any relevance for the proposed tour or for the proposed reply to Princess Margaret. The only reference in Tokyo was when Princess Chichibu mentioned to the Prime Minister that she understood that Princess Alexandra might be coming to Tokyo at the time of the Royal Ballet's visit: we said that we had no other information apart from the possible plans of Princess Margaret.

F.R.B.

4 October 1982

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Ref. A09475

MR BUTLER

--- I attach a note on the proposals for a Far East tour by the Royal Ballet next year. I do not suggest that you need show this to the Prime Minister, but you may like to have it by you during the tour, in case the matter is raised.

2. On the question of attendance at Gala Performances by a member of the Royal Family, the Royal Ballet recognise that the Gala Performances in the four cities concerned are so widely spread in time that they cannot expect one member of the Royal Family to do them all. It could, however, be possible for a member of the Royal Family to do the Gala Performances in Seoul and Peking. Princess Margaret has been invited accordingly. I understand that she is willing to go to Peking, but has expressed the wish not to go to Seoul. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been approached about the possibility of making such a visit an official visit, which would be supported by public funds. The view is taken that there is not sufficient public interest in Princess Margaret's visit to Peking to justify public support for that alone. But there would be considerable political and diplomatic advantages if Princess Margaret were willing to go to Seoul, and it is therefore proposed to tell her Private Secretary that, if she was prepared to visit Seoul and Peking, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be prepared to accept that as an official visit and to provide financial support accordingly. This reply is not being communicated to Princess Margaret until the Prime Minister has returned from her tour, in case it produces any developments which might be relevant.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 September 1982

Briefing note for the Prime Minister on The Royal Ballet's
Far East Tour - 25th April to 18th June, 1983

1. The Royal Ballet will visit the United States and The Far East in the Spring of 1983, leaving London on 16th April and returning on 20th June.

2. Their itinerary is as follows:

Japan

They will perform in Tokyo from 25th April to 5th May, and in five other Japanese cities (Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, Hiroshima and Fukuoka).

Korea

Seoul - 17th to 21st May. This has been planned to coincide with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Cultural Agreement between Korea and Great Britain.

China

Peking - 25th May to 1st June; Shanghai - 4th to 7th June; Canton - 9th to 11th June.

Hong Kong - 14th to 18th June.

3. It is very much hoped that Gala Performances in Tokyo, Seoul, Peking and Hong Kong will be attended by a member of the Royal Family. Sir Claus Moser, Chairman, The Royal Opera House, has invited HRH The Princess Margaret to attend Galas in Seoul and Peking. It is felt that, with the exception of Peking, these occasions will afford an excellent opportunity to raise badly needed funds for the Royal Opera House Development Appeal, which is still some £400,000 short of its £10 million target to complete Phase I of their Development project.