



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 February, 1984

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Dear John,

Proposed Invitation to Visit Britain: Mr Michael Somare,
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

The Rt Hon Michael Somare CH, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, will be visiting West Germany in September and the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner has told us that Mr Somare would like to visit Britain for a few days. We are much attracted by the idea and would be grateful to know if the Prime Minister would be able in principle to receive Mr Somare as a Guest of Government in September for two or three days. Dates are still flexible at this stage as Mr Somare's dates in Germany are not yet firm. If the Prime Minister agrees to the principle of a visit by Mr Somare, we would of course need to negotiate dates which did not clash with the Prime Minister's visit to South East Asia.

Our interests in Papua New Guinea are growing. Robust PNG support for us over the Falklands, a good visit by HM The Queen in 1982, a successful Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visit in 1983 and an RN ships' visit at the beginning of this year, are to be followed by the opening of Papua New Guinea's new Parliament building in August by The Prince of Wales. British firms are contributing to, and sharing in, Papua New Guinea's mining and agriculture. Our exports to PNG have increased steadily since independence in 1975 and could top £160 million by 1986. British investment in PNG by the Commonwealth Development Corporation and private firms is also expanding and some 7,000 British people now live in the country, including a large group of VSOs.

Michael Somare is a widely respected leader within his own country and in the region and looks set to lead his country again at the next election in 1987. He has been the dominant political figure in Papua New Guinea since before independence and by 1985 will have been Prime Minister for eight of the ten years since independence. An invitation now would be an excellent way of marking Papua New Guinea's tenth anniversary of independence.

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I would be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister agrees to an invitation being issued, subject to the negotiation of mutually convenient dates.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 February 1984

Proposed invitation to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
to visit Britain

In your letter of 16 February you asked whether the Prime Minister would be able to receive Mr. Somare as a guest of government in September for two or three days.

September is a difficult month for the Prime Minister. It would suit her much better to receive Mr. Somare in the week beginning 22 October. Could you establish whether there is any flexibility in the timing of his visit to Germany? If not, we shall have to look again at possible September dates but I can at this stage give no guarantee that the Prime Minister will be able to receive him then.

done by phone

JC

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

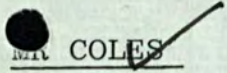
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 MR COLES ✓

A.S.C. 1/2.

cc: Mrs. Goodchild

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

We discussed this this morning. As I explained, September is not a good month because of the Prime Minister's overseas trip which has already been agreed. In addition, she will be hosting a lunch for the Prime Minister of Peru the week after she gets back, i.e. Wednesday, 3 October. A later date in October would really suit the Prime Minister. Could you ask the FCO to make enquiries as to whether the week beginning Monday, 22 October would be convenient. The Prime Minister could offer talks and lunch on Wednesday, 24 October.

CR.

17 February, 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Lyell.

This would mean the usual
lunch and bath. Third date
in September should we go to?

A. J. C. $\frac{16}{2}$.