



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

PS/
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

8 February 1985

David Barclay Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Mr Powell

Dear David,

BF//MOO Submitting
Advice (Col's report)

SOUVENIR PHILATELIC COVER TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY

Although the Post Office does not intend to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of VE Day by issuing special postage stamps or souvenir philatelic covers, other organisations will wish to mark the occasion through the postal service. I understand that bodies such as regimental associations intend to issue souvenir covers for charitable purposes. Since Post Office approval is required for the design of the hand cancellation stamps on covers being sent through the postal service, its advice is being sought about appropriate wording.

2 In view of the sensitive nature of this event, the Post Office has asked this Department to suggest a form of words that would be likely to prove generally acceptable.

3 My Secretary of State has considered the matter and has concluded that we should tell the Post Office that the words "Fortieth Anniversary of VE Day: 8 May 1945: 40 years of peace and co-operation in Europe" are acceptable. Where a shorter form of words is required, the latter sub-clause might be omitted. At an extreme, only "VE Day: 8 May 1945" would be acceptable.

4 I should be grateful if you would confirm that the Prime Minister would be content for the Post Office to be advised accordingly. I am copying this letter to Dennis Brennan (Ministry of Defence).

Yours ever,
Andrew Lansley

ANDREW LANSLEY
Private Secretary

JH5ARP

11 FEB 1985

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CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 March, 1985.

Souvenir Philatelic Cover to commemorate VE Day

You wrote to David Barclay on 8 February about a form of words for hand cancellation stamps to commemorate VE Day. Simon Lowe subsequently wrote on 22 February to suggest a parallel form of words for VJ Day.

I am confident that the Prime Minister would be content for the Post Office to be advised as proposed in the two letters.

I am copying this letter to Simon Lowe (Ministry of Defence).

(C.D. Powell)

Andrew Lansley, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

289



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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~930 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1

22nd February 1985

Dear David

SOUVENIR PHILATELIC COVER TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY

I understand that you would find it useful to have the MOD's comments on Andrew Lansley's letter of 8th February concerning souvenir philatelic covers. Unfortunately we did not originally receive our copy of that letter and we have not therefore had an opportunity to consult with Regimental Associations.

Officials here, however, are concerned that the proposed form of words will tend to reinforce the impression that the events planned for 8th May are intended to cover the Anniversary of VE Day alone. As you know, the national commemoration planned for 8th May is intended to cover the end of the war in all theatres. In particular, the sensitivities of Far East veterans need to be taken into account.

While we would not suggest that a joint VE/VJ Day hand cancellation stamp should be produced, we would hope that DTI would authorise an additional form of words suitable for use on VJ Day (15th August). The full version of the slogan, with its emphasis on 40 years of peace and co-operation, would perhaps not translate readily to the Far East. The two versions might therefore be: "Fortieth Anniversary of VJ Day: 15th August 1945" and "VJ Day: 15th August 1945".

I am copying this letter to Andrew Lansley (DTI).

Yours ever
Simon Lowe

(S H LOWE)
Private Secretary

D Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street

Defence : VE Day Oct 84

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
PHONE 01-895 3333

