

PRIME MINISTER

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CHOGM: BILATERAL MEETINGS

The Foreign Secretary recommends formal bilaterals with:

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Mr. Hawke | [✓] | [] |
| Mr. Mulroney | [✓] | [] |
| [Mr. Lange] | [] | [✓] |
| President Kaunda | [✓] | [] |
| President Babangida (if present) | [✓] | [] |
| Mr. Mugabe | [✓] | [] |

[You will of course just have seen Mr. Gandhi.]

The only additional candidate, if he attended, would be
Dr. Mahathir. - *J. V. V.* [] []

He also recommends that, although you do not need to have formal bilaterals, you should seek out during the meeting (and notably the Retreat):

- ✓ President Masire of Botswana
- Prince Bhekimpi of Swaziland
- President Ershad of Bangladesh
- ✓ President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka
- ✓ Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore
- ✓ The Sultan of Brunei
- President Kyprianou of Cyprus

Finally, he recommends that you should accept President Ershad's invitation to lunch on 17 October, not least as a means of heading off his request for an official visit in 1986. [] []

These all seem sensible if time-consuming recommendations.

CDP

9 September, 1985.

JD3ACP

cc m/f
/pc

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 September 1985

Dear Charles,

CHOGM: Bilateral Contacts with the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister will not this year be offering entertainment in Nassau. The Foreign Secretary considers that it would therefore be particularly useful to arrange in advance a small number of formal bilateral meetings with other Heads of Government.

Sir Geoffrey suggests that we should try to arrange early meetings for the Prime Minister with the three "old" Commonwealth leaders, Mr Mulroney, Mr Hawke and Mr Lange. Southern Africa will clearly be a major topic with each. In addition, Sir Geoffrey feels we should also arrange bilateral meetings with President Kaunda of Zambia and Mr Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and President Babangida of Nigeria, should he attend. The Prime Minister will of course have had full discussions with Mr Gandhi before CHOGM. I attach a short background note (Annex I) on the importance of each of these to current British interests, with an indication of topics which it might be particularly useful for the Prime Minister to raise.

Additionally, Sir Geoffrey considers that the Prime Minister might usefully make a point of speaking privately during CHOGM to the following:

△ /
 President Masire of Botswana
 Prince Bhekimpi of Swaziland
 President Ershad of Bangladesh
 President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka
 Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore
 The Sultan of Brunei
 President Kyprianou of Cyprus

/ Sir Geoffrey does not believe that formal bilaterals are necessary with any of these; private conversations during the Retreat weekend would be sufficient. I attach a separate note (Annex II) on what the Prime Minister might hope to achieve from these conversations.

In practice, of course, the Prime Minister will be able to meet all the Heads of Government informally at the various functions, and some, like President Kyprianou, will make a point of getting in touch with her. The purpose of this letter is to

/ identify ...



identify those who in present circumstances are of particular importance to us, and who should not be missed for a reasonably substantial talk.

If the Prime Minister agrees to these suggestions, we shall go ahead and try to arrange meetings with those mentioned.

There is one invitation for the Prime Minister. It is from President Ershad of Bangladesh, who has invited her to luncheon on 17 October, which will be attended by several Heads of Delegations. There is a good case for the Prime Minister to accept this invitation.

In July President Ershad enquired whether it would be possible for him to visit Britain this October. The short notice made this impossible. However, he has since said that he would like to pay an official visit to the UK next year. Given the plans that we already have for State and official visitors next year, such a visit would be very difficult before 1987. Against this background, acceptance of President Ershad's luncheon invitation would make it easier to stave off an official visit until 1987, and would also encourage President Ershad to maintain his present receptivity towards British and Western concerns over, for example, the Falklands and Afghanistan, despite Bangladesh's formal non-alignment.

/ You might also find it useful to have the enclosed note of the bilateral meetings the Foreign Secretary will be seeking, and the lunches he proposes to give for Commonwealth Foreign Ministers (or equivalent) at the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of September and at Nassau. Taken together with the recommendations for the Prime Minister's bilaterals, this table shows the overall pattern of Commonwealth contacts prior to, and at, CHOGM.

Yours ever,
L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



ANNEX I

HEADS OF DELEGATION WITH WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER
MIGHT AIM TO HAVE FORMAL BILATERALS AT CHOGM

- MR HAWKE:
(Australia) Last met PM at New Delhi CHOGM in 1983. To discuss Southern Africa and small states (particularly in the Pacific). Bilaterally, to press our case and argue for a co-ordinated response by both governments to the Report of the Royal Commission on British Nuclear Tests.
- MR MULRONEY:
(Canada) Last met PM in April 1985. To discuss Southern Africa, Namibia (Contact Group), and small states; generally to keep in touch with our closest Commonwealth partner. Mr Mulroney's office has already requested a bilateral with the PM.
- MR LANGE:
(New Zealand) Last met PM on 4 March 1985. To discuss Southern Africa and small states; and most importantly to press again for a change in New Zealand's policy on ship's visits.
- NIGERIA: Although it is not known who will represent the new Nigerian Government, it will be a high priority to have a top-level discussion with them, on both CHOGM (especially Southern Africa) issues and on bilateral matters. Nigeria matters to us; we cannot afford to miss the opportunity for contact.
- PRESIDENT
KAUNDA:
(Zambia) Last met PM in March 1983. Will be senior Front Line State leader present. To enable PM to seek Kaunda's understanding of our policy over South Africa and to encourage his own pragmatic approaches to regional questions (thus following up the visit by the Prime Minister's special emissary in April); to reassure him of our continued support during Zambia's economic difficulties, whilst stressing the need to reach/adhere to agreement with the IMF.
- MR MUGABE:
(Zimbabwe) Last met PM in July 1984. To stress the difficulties which any unconstitutional moves over creation of a one-party state, or over abolition of the white seats, would cause us (and other Western countries); to encourage internal reconciliation; and to try to persuade him of the wisdom of our policies in Southern Africa.



ANNEX II

LEADERS TO WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT SPEAK
PRIVATELY DURING THE RETREAT WEEKEND

- PRESIDENT MASIRE:
(Botswana) Last met PM in May 1984. To discuss our attitude to South Africa, given backdrop of recent attack on Gaborone, and our subsequent support for Botswana. President Masire is sympathetic, though not openly supportive, of our policy on sanctions. He might be encouraged to play helpful part in CHOGM discussions.
- PRINCE BHEKIMPI:
(Swaziland) Has never met PM. He asked to visit UK on 11 or 28 October, but neither dates were convenient to us; a private talk at CHOGM would help overcome Swazi sensibilities. To press the Prince to openly oppose economic sanctions against South Africa at CHOGM; to thank for support over Falklands.
- PRESIDENT ERSHAD:
(Bangladesh) Last met PM in New Delhi, 1983. Has asked for an exclusive bilateral with PM (as well as inviting her to a luncheon). A promise of a talk during the Retreat would probably satisfy him. To encourage him to maintain his present pro-Western inclinations and his enthusiasm for the Commonwealth; and in his present intention to return Bangladesh to democratic rule. It might help to stave off pressure for an early visit to UK, which will be difficult to arrange before 1987. Large aid programme in Bangladesh.
- PRESIDENT
JAYEWARDENE:
(Sri Lanka) Last met PM in April 1985. If President attends CHOGM bilateral would provide opportunity to discuss the inter-communal problem; also to encourage maintenance of pro-Western stance.
- MR LEE KUAN YEW
(Singapore) Last met PM in April 1985. No substantive bilateral business needs to be discussed but Lee would welcome a further opportunity to exchange views on international issues. His views carry weight in ASEAN and in the NAM. He was reportedly disappointed at having failed to secure a bilateral with PM at New Delhi in 1983.

/...



THE SULTAN
OF BRUNEI:

Last met PM in April 1985, when she encouraged Sultan to attend his first CHOGM. Personal contact with the Sultan is crucial in protecting our commercial, military and political interests in Brunei; to encourage constitutional reforms in the interests of stability; private talk would enhance Sultan's standing within the Royal family at home.

PRESIDENT
KYPRIANOU:
(Cyprus)

Last met PM in March 1985. Kyprianou is quite likely to ask for a (Cyprus) bilateral, but should at least be given a private talk during the retreat; to review progress on the UN Secretary-General's initiative on Cyprus and to impress upon him need for active co-operation.



ENTERTAINMENT/BILATERALS PROPOSED FOR CHOGM 1985

| Country | Head of Gvt or Leader of Delegation | Foreign Minister or Equivalent |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Antigua and Barbuda | | |
| Australia | PM-formal bilateral | |
| The Bahamas | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Bangladesh | PM - Retreat | *FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Barbados | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Belize | | *FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Botswana | PM - Retreat | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Brunei | PM - Retreat | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Canada | PM-formal bilateral | FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Cyprus | PM - Retreat | FS - Nassau Lunch (or else bilateral) |
| Dominica | FS - Nassau Lunch | |
| Fiji | | |
| The Gambia | | |
| Ghana | | |
| Grenada | | FS - bilateral |
| Guyana | | FS - bilateral |
| India | | FS - bilateral FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Jamaica | | FS - bilateral or Nassau Lunch |
| Kenya | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Kiribati | | |
| Lesotho | | FS - bilateral |
| Malawi | | |
| Malaysia | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Maldives | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Malta | | |



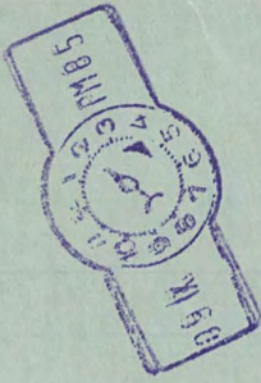
| Country | Head of Gvt or Leader of Delegation | Foreign Minister or Equivalent |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mauritius | | *FS - Nassau Lunch |
| New Zealand | PM - formal bilateral | |
| Nigeria | PM - formal bilateral | FS - bilateral FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Papua New Guinea | | |
| St Christopher and Nevis | *FS - Nassau Lunch | |
| St Lucia | FS - Nassau Lunch | |
| St Vincent and the Grenadines | FS - Nassau Lunch | |
| Seychelles | FS - formal bilateral | |
| Sierra Leone | | FS - bilateral |
| Singapore | PM - Retreat | FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Solomon Islands | | |
| Sri Lanka | PM - Retreat | *FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Swaziland | PM - Retreat | |
| Tanzania | | FS - UNGA Lunch (*FS - Nassau Lunch) |
| Tonga | | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | | FS - Nassau Lunch |
| Uganda | | FS - bilateral (to be confirmed) |
| Vanuatu | | |
| Western Samoa | | |
| Zambia | PM - formal bilateral | *FS - UNGA Lunch |
| Zimbabwe | PM - formal bilateral | |

PM = Mrs Thatcher

FS = Sir G Howe

* Reserve List

Retreat = informal talk during retreat weekend



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bc PC



10 DOWNING STREET

15 September 1985

From the Private Secretary

CHOGM: BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 9 September conveying the Foreign Secretary's recommendations on the bilateral contacts which the Prime Minister should undertake at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Nassau.

The Prime Minister agrees to hold formal bilaterals with Mr. Hawke, Mr. Mulroney, President Kaunda, Mr. Mugabe and President Babangida if he is present. She does not want to seek a formal bilateral with Mr. Lange. Were Dr. Mahathir to attend, the Prime Minister would want a bilateral with him, but I gather this is unlikely.

The Prime Minister agrees that she should make a point of speaking privately during CHOGM to President Masire, President Jayewardene, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and the Sultan of Brunei. She also agrees to accept President Ershad's invitation to lunch on 17 October.

(Charles Powell)

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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dr



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 September 1985

CHOGM: BILATERALS

Could you please add Lee Kuan Yew to the list of Heads of Government with whom the Prime Minister would like a formal bilateral.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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