

MR. OWEN

I have discussed with the Prime Minister the attached letter from the Home Office proposing that Mr. Booth accompany Mr. Mellor to Pakistan; also your suggestion that Mr. Booth might take informal soundings in Pakistan about the possibility of an Extradition Treaty.

The Prime Minister is content for Mr. Booth to travel to Pakistan as a member of Mr. Mellor's delegation. She would not however wish him to be described as her "personal representative" as this might lead to misunderstanding with the Pakistan authorities, and risk undercutting Mr. Mellor's status and authority as leader of the delegation. Mr. Booth should be described simply as an official accompanying Mr. Mellor.

The Prime Minister does not think that it would be appropriate for Mr. Booth to take soundings about an Extradition Treaty. She would prefer this to be done through the normal channels.

I am therefore writing to the Home Office as in the attached letter.

C.D.P.

C.D.P.

I am content with this and will ensure that PM's wish is understood
M.O.

CHARLES POWELL
13 September 1985

16/9

ELBANK



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1985

You wrote to Mark Addison on 9 September about Mr. Mellor's proposed visit to Pakistan in October in order to strengthen cooperation between the UK and Pakistan Governments on drug problems. You proposed that Mr. Hartley Booth of the Policy Unit should accompany Mr. Mellor.

The Prime Minister is content for Mr. Booth to be a member of Mr. Mellor's party. But she considers it would be a mistake for Mr. Booth to be described as her "personal representative" since this might undercut the standing in Pakistani eyes of Mr. Mellor. Mr. Booth should simply be described as an official accompanying Mr. Mellor.

(Charles Powell)

Mrs. Christine Heald,
Home Office.

NR

MR ADDISON

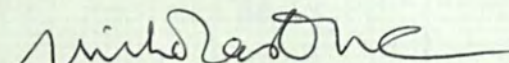
12 September 1985

MR MELLOR'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

I support David Mellor's request that Hartley Booth should accompany his party to Pakistan from 13-20 October.

From a Policy Unit viewpoint, this would be a sensible use of Hartley's time. The drug problem is a major priority for him and Pakistan seems to hold the key to reducing their supply. His participation might be said to involve a degree of duplication but in a sense, the Policy Unit is always "duplicating" the work of Departments, in order to offer the Prime Minister alternative views. But in any case, I think Hartley's line of questioning will add something distinctive to the party's investigations.

Separate from the drugs question, Hartley could, if the Prime Minister were agreeable, make informal soundings about the possibility of an Extradition Treaty with Pakistan, the absence of which handicaps our drive against drug pushers. Mr Mellor is content with this.


NICHOLAS OWEN



10 DOWNING STREET

Charles Powell.

In addition to the notes you
have already seen, I also
now attach Nick Owen's
advice.

He backs HB's petition,
and reminds me of what
Hobby should "note in final
findings" about an extradition
Treaty.

MEIA 12/9

Mr. Addison

no
Exhibit

MR. POWELL

I can see no objection to Mr. Booth going as a member of delegation. But it would be a serious error to bill him as the Prime Minister's personal representative. To do so would completely undercut the authority of our states in Pakistani eyes of the Minister, who is the Government's representative. Mr. Booth should go as a common or garden official with a professional interest in the drugs problem.

We have been expecting, as you know, the attached letter from the Home Office for some time. It seeks the Prime Minister's agreement that Hartley Booth, as the Prime Minister personal representative, should accompany David Mellor on his visit to Pakistan in October to strengthen cooperation between the two Governments on the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

Formal FCO approval has yet to be given for the visit, though the Home Office have spoken to them at official level and there has been no objection to the proposals. It is envisaged that, in addition to David Mellor and Hartley Booth, the party would include a Private Secretary, one official, and possibly a press officer.

I have spoken both to the Home Secretary's office and David Mellor's office. They confirm that while Mr Mellor was initially doubtful about the idea of Hartley Booth joining the party, he does now believe that Hartley's presence will add weight (!) to the delegation and will impress upon the Pakistan Government, particularly upon President Zia, the seriousness with which we view the Pakistan connection.

So far as the programme is concerned, Mr Mellor is certainly hoping to arrange a meeting with President Zia himself. A number of other discussions are being arranged, as well as visits to eg. areas involved in crop substitution programmes. Mr Mellor envisages that Hartley Booth will be sitting in on all the meetings, but not playing a particularly active role, particularly in any meeting with the President. No separate fixtures for Hartley are yet planned, but it seems highly likely that some will take place, particularly if, as we understand, he has a number of acquaintances in Government circles there.

The Home Office will not be paying for Hartley's visit. The cost will fall to MPO.

CDD
11/9

My own view on this is that there is no reason in principle why members of the policy unit should not join fact-finding tours overseas. As the Home Office letter suggests, policy unit involvement here can be expected to help them in their "eyes and ears" role - and there is certainly no doubt that Pakistan is of central importance in the Government's fight against the illegal drug trade and the drugs threat generally in the UK (you will remember that one of the two special customs secondees is stationed in Karachi).

However, in this case, I have to say that I am doubtful that the pay off will justify the expense. I also question whether, in what I imagine is a delicate area in diplomatic terms, for reasons you know of, it would be wise to agree to policy unit involvement.

But given that the Home Secretary backs the idea, that Nick Owen seems likely to do so too (I am sending the Home Office note to him for comment) and that the Prime Minister's natural inclination would be I think to say yes, Hartley may very well end up going. If so, we shall need to ensure he is properly briefed by the Foreign Office, and I think by you and Nigel as well, before departure.

I should be grateful for your views before putting this through Nigel Wicks, (together with comments from Nick Owen) to the Prime Minister.

Mark Addison

MARK ADDISON

10 September 1985



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

9 September 1985

Dear Mark,

As you perhaps know, Mr Mellor is planning to visit Pakistan from 13-20 October in order to strengthen co-operation between the UK and Pakistan Governments on matters connected with illicit drug production and trafficking: most of the heroin which is smuggled into the UK originates from Pakistan. Both the previous and the present Home Secretaries consider that such a visit will enable Mr Mellor, against the background of conflicting reports, to make a fuller assessment of the efforts which the Pakistan authorities are making to combat illicit drug trafficking and production and to register the UK Government's concern in whatever way seems appropriate. The visit will also provide an occasion for us to offer some additional assistance on drug-related equipment, thereby following up last year's correspondence between the Prime Minister and President Zia.

The Home Secretary and Mr Mellor believe that it would be most helpful if Mr Hartley Booth from the Policy Unit were able to accompany Mr Mellor during this visit. As you know, Mr Booth takes a very close interest in drugs policy, and a visit to Pakistan would provide him with important insights into the problems faced in a major drug producing country. There are however additional advantages which the Home Secretary and Mr Mellor consider Mr Booth's participation would yield. In the first place, the Prime Minister has personally expressed her concern about the drugs issue when she has met President Zia during the last year or two. The presence in Mr Mellor's party of a personal representative of the Prime Minister would add to the political impact of the visit on Pakistan Government personalities, particularly as Mr Mellor hopes that it will be possible to arrange a meeting with President Zia. In addition, Mr Booth's participation in the visit would enable the Prime Minister to be directly and personally informed about the current drugs situation in Pakistan.

In the light of these considerations, the Home Secretary would be glad to know if the Prime Minister is willing to agree to Mr Booth accompanying Mr Mellor.

Stephen Davidson will be writing separately to the Foreign Office to seek the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's formal approval for the visit.

Yours ever,
Christine.

MRS C J HEALD

Mark Addison, Esq



Drugs file CC/13

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

19 September 1985

Dear Len

Mr Mellor, with the Home Secretary's agreement, has asked me to write to you to seek the Foreign Secretary's formal approval to his undertaking a visit to Pakistan from 13 to 20 October. The purpose of the proposed visit is to strengthen co-operation between the UK and Pakistan Governments in combating drug misuse. The visit will include discussions with the Pakistan Government about drugs issues and a meeting with President Zia.

Both the Home Secretary and Mr Mellor take the view that there are important reasons why this visit should take place. The fight against drug misuse is a major part of the Government's law and order programme and is of considerable public interest. The Home Office leads and co-ordinates the Government's policy through the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs, of which Mr Mellor is chairman.

Figures published this month show a continued increase in the drugs problem in this country during 1984: the number of seizures of drugs has increased, but so too has the number of known addicts (though not as fast as in previous years). The main drug of misuse remains heroin, and the main source of heroin remainsthe North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan, where it is produced and through which it is trafficked en route from Afghanistan to ports and airports throughout the Indian sub-continent. It is vital that the Government does, and is seen to do, all it can to ensure the maximum co-operation from the Pakistan Government in attempting to stem the flow of drugs to the United Kingdom.

It is also the case that the Governments of countries in which illicit drugs are produced incline to the view that the richer, consumer nations of the west are in no small way responsible for the problems they, the producer countries, face by providing lucrative markets for the growers and traffickers. In the interests of maintaining good relations with producer countries it is important therefore that the UK avails itself of opportunities such as this to demonstrate its willingness to co-operate with and assist them in combating drug trafficking and at the same time to show that it is doing all it can to put its own house in order. As the Minister most immediately responsible for the day to day administration and co-ordination of the Government's policy, Mr Mellor is well placed to achieve these objectives.

Mr Mellor believes that the time is now right for the visit to be made. The United Kingdom, and a number of other countries, have been providing a good deal of practical assistance to the Pakistan Government, but the reports received as to the effectiveness of the Pakistan authorities' efforts are conflicting. Last year, ODA pledged £1 million to the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) as a contribution towards rural development/crop substitution project in the Dir region of the NWFP (one of the most important opium poppy producing regions in the province). Work on that project is about to begin, and Mr Mellor believes that it is important to take this opportunity to impress upon the Pakistan authorities and the UNFDAC field administrators that the UK Government is taking a close interest in the way in which our money is being spent.

Len Appleyard Esq

PS/Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP

The precise timing of the visit seems right coming, as it does, immediately after the Conservative Party Conference. The pressure of Parliamentary business would make it difficult to postpone the visit till later in the year.

Mr Mellor intends to make a further offer of assistance to the Pakistan Government while he is there. Following her meeting in Moscow with President Zia, the Prime Minister made an offer of assistance with training of law enforcement personnel and with the purchase of drug detecting equipment. You will know that our Departments have had difficulty in raising finance for the equipment but we have recently obtained Treasury agreement in principle to allocate £50,000 of Home Office money to this purpose.

As I have mentioned, Mr Mellor expects to be able to meet President Zia while he is in Pakistan. He regards this as an important centrepiece to the visit, providing an opportunity to renew in the President's mind the importance which the UK Government attaches to the drugs issue, first raised by the Prime Minister at her meeting with him in 1982.

The Prime Minister has agreed that Mr Mellor should be accompanied by Mr Hartley Booth from her Policy Unit. Mr Booth takes a very close interest in drugs policy, and a visit to Pakistan would provide him with important insights into the problems faced by a major drug producing country.

I should be grateful if you would let me know if the Foreign Secretary is content to give his formal approval to the visit.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell and to Murdo MacLean.

yours ever
Steven

STEVEN W DAVIDSON

Private Secretary

Home Affairs Dept