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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Your reference

Our reference

Date 26 March 1990

Dear Crawfie,

CF
A. keep for
Gallipoli. British
Army

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO GALLIPOLI: 24/25 APRIL

I attach a copy of the programme and a map showing the various venues for the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey on 24-25 April. This was worked out on the recce visit, although it has not yet been finally approved.

The arrival will be at 10 pm on 24 April, when the weather will be relatively cool.

The weather on 25 April on the peninsular is uncertain. It could be hot and sunny, on the other hand it could rain. It is likely to be windy at the Turkish Memorial and the British Memorial, both of which are situated high on cliffs. I shall check the latest weather forecast on Friday 20 April.

On 25 April the Prime Minister will travel from Istanbul to the Turkish Memorial by a helicopter (1 hour 10 minutes flying time). The Turkish authorities say they are arranging for VIP rest room facilities at the Turkish Memorial. The wind is likely to be strong at the International Ceremony. The Prime Minister may have to walk on grass up to the memorial and on the memorial itself are gaps in the paving stones, so that narrow heeled shoes are not recommended.

At the British ceremony on Cape Helles the path up to the memorial is gravel, there are no gaps in the paving stones; there is a grass area within the confines of the walls surrounding the memorial where the Prime Minister will meet veterans etc.

The ground is uneven on the cliff top above V Beach and in the V Beach cemetery itself.

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The Turkish authorities have also promised VIP rest room facilities at Kabatepe, the venue for lunch. There will be a head table for VIPs at lunch which will be served, and a buffet meal for others.

At the Shrapnel Valley cemetery there is a grass slope up to the memorial where the Prime Minister will lay a wreath.

There will be an opportunity for the Prime Minister to freshen up and possibly change when she goes to the (very simple) Commonwealth War Games cottage before visiting HMS Argonaut (again travelling by helicopter).

It might therefore be wise to plan for hot weather but to have contingencies in case it turns cold and/or wet. Hats must be well anchored down against the wind.

It is recommended that the Prime Minister should wear sombre clothes, but not funereal, possibly black and white. A veil with a hat is not recommended.

Yours sincerely

S M Waghorn

S M Waghorn (Miss)
Protocol Department