

CONFIDENTIAL

DG2AGQ



cc Tessa Gaisman.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 April 1985

We spoke recently about the Prime Minister's proposed visit to Sellafield in August. We agreed that, in view of the timetable for the court hearing, which now seems unlikely to be completed before mid-July, it would probably be sensible to try and arrange a new date later in the year.

The Prime Minister agrees that the original date of 6 August will be too early. The most promising alternative looks to be 1 November, which should leave us with a clear three months between the visit and the verdict. She would be willing to set aside a complete day for a tour which took in Capenhurst, Heysham and Sellafield.

I have also had a word with Mr. Allday at BNFL. He has now deleted 6 August from his diary and is holding 1 November in reserve. I mentioned the idea to him of a comprehensive, three-site tour, and he thought it an excellent one. Mr. Allday is hoping that I will be able to go back to him in the near future confirming the new date. Meanwhile, he will treat the ideas we discussed as confidential.

BFH  
I should be grateful to hear from you and copy recipients with views about the proposed date of 1 November, and to have confirmation that there should be no difficulties with arranging a comprehensive tour (I agree with David Barclay that the timing would be possible though tight). If all goes well, I shall then be in a position to write to Mr. Allday giving him the confirmation he seeks.

I am copying this letter to Andrew Allberry (Department of the Environment) and Ruth Rawling (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

Mark Addison

John Neilson, Esq.,  
Department of Energy.

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2 ppls.

CF

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01-211-6402

Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Await reply from  
DEN to my query on  
helicopter landing arrangements.

BF

15 May 1985 16/5

*Dear Mark*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SELLAFIELD

My Secretary of State has seen a copy of Ivor Llewelyn's letter of 26 April giving Mr Jopling's views on the Prime Minister's visit to Sellafield.

He is concerned that a visit of the type proposed by Mr Jopling to the Whitehaven fish market would concentrate attention on the supposed risks to the environment rather than on the massive programme of investment undertaken by the industry to protect against radioactive hazards. The inauguration of Pond 5 and in particular SIXEP, costing together in excess of £½ billion, will in itself fully demonstrate the commitment of the industry and Government to environmental protection. SIXEP has a key role in reducing liquid effluent discharges to sea. Pond 5 has been designed to enable pond water to be more carefully controlled and so reduce the volume discharged.

I am copying this to Ivor Llewelyn and to Andrew Allberry at the Department of the Environment.

*Yours sincerely  
Philip Evans*

P R EVANS  
Private Secretary

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pm: Visit to Liverpool Sept 81



15 MAY 1985



CONFIDENTIAL



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

14 May 1985

*Dear Mark*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SELLAFIELD

Since I wrote to you on this subject on 18 April, I have seen a copy of Ivor Llewelyn's letter of 26 April, expressing his Minister's uneasiness about the visit and suggesting the programme should also include 'some opportunities for discussion with local people, and, perhaps a visit to the local fish market at Whitehaven'. Any extensions of the latter kind would need careful thought in order to avoid focussing attention on the anxieties of local protest groups and giving them an opportunity to mount skilful anti-nuclear demonstrations; equally, however, a meeting with the liaison committee, who have taken a responsible line, has much to commend it - local people would greatly appreciate it.

The Sellafield visit will in any case be in the context of protecting people and the environment because the Prime Minister will be opening £250m of new effluent treatment plant, and can highlight the plans for a further major plant. If the Prime Minister wishes to bring out the environmental angle more strongly, it would be possible to combine Sellafield with the visit my Secretary of State has separately proposed she should make to the Lake District National Park, rather than combine it with other nuclear sites as originally planned. If the Prime Minister is attracted by this alternative approach, my Secretary of State will ask officials to develop it in more detail.

I am copying this letter to Ivor Llewelyn (MAFF) and to John Neilson (DEn).

*Yours sincerely*

*S Vandervord*

MISS S VANDERVORD  
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq

pm: Visit to Liverpool Sept 81

11 12 1  
8 9  
7 6 5 4 3 2  
1

15 MAY 1985

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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

26 April 1985

Dear Mark

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SELLAFIELD**

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 9 April to John Neilson in which you asked for views on the proposal that the Prime Minister should visit Sellafield on 1 November.

As you know, the Chairman of BNFL first invited the Prime Minister to Sellafield in October 1984. In her letter of 19 December to David Barclay, Valerie Heathorn conveyed my Minister's reservations both about the timing and about the programme proposed for the Prime Minister's visit.

You may recall that he suggested that a cooling off period should be allowed between the end of the prosecution of BNFL and the date of the visit. Although he has no reason to expect the prosecution to follow any different timetable from that indicated earlier, he has asked me to point out that the Inspector's report on the Sizewell enquiry can be expected later in the year and that the Select Committee on the Environment has started an enquiry into the disposal of radioactive waste. Whilst the Government's proposals for the development of the nuclear power industry are already very much in the public eye, these two enquiries are likely to ensure that attention continues to be focussed on its environmental impact.

Interest will be particularly keen at Sellafield where the Yorkshire TV programme led to the establishment of the Black inquiry which reported last year. The Government has yet to respond fully to the detailed recommendations for the improvement of control which Black made, though it has accepted the findings in principle. That being so, my Minister considers that it is important that the Prime Minister's programme should

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include, alongside any desirable visits to nuclear installations, some opportunities for discussions with local people, and, perhaps a visit to the local fish market at Whitehaven. These would enable her to demonstrate that the Government is as committed to the protection of people and the environment from radioactive hazards as it is convinced that nuclear power and the re-processing of nuclear waste can contribute substantially to our energy resources and our economic well-being.

My Minister is anxious that the Prime Minister should understand that whatever the programme, her visit could give rise to substantial anti-nuclear demonstrations. In view of this, and of the impending court case, he remains uneasy about this proposal.

I am sending copies of this letter to Andrew Allberry (DOE) and John Neilson (DEn).

Yours ever

CI

C I LLEWELYN  
Private Secretary

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PM: visit to linepost/hutley 9/81

11 12 1  
10 9 8  
7 6 5  
4 3 2

27 APR 1985

MEA.

4x, 1/2h.

25/4

MAFF are going to  
send a response ~~to this~~  
in the next couple of days  
Context?

Martha

CONFIDENTIAL (MKA 2/5 - Depts in hand)



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref: J/PSO/12968/85

Your ref:

NBMM  
MKA 22/4

Do you have  
file?

OK

18 April 1985

NSO

Tel 19/4

Dear Mark

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SELLAFIELD

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 9 April to John Neilson at the Department of Energy.

We would be content for the Prime Minister's visit to proceed on 1 November. This will allow a decent interval to elapse after the end of the court case against BNFL, which we expect in mid-July. It is, of course, possible that, if BNFL are found guilty, they will seek to appeal but we cannot predict when such an appeal would be heard. In our view it would be unrealistic to defer the visit indefinitely because of this eventuality.

Yours sincerely

S Vandervord

MISS S VANDERVORD  
Private Secretary

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Mark Addison Esq

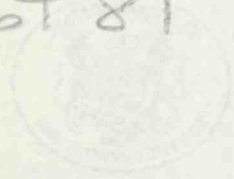
Visit to Liverpool : 1st Sept 81

LONDON KATE 1981

BY AIR MAIL

POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE



LIVERPOOL

1st Sept 81



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ  
01 211 6402

GF  
Pl. check dist  
MAFF to see  
if they too are  
going to respond.  
MAY 24/4

Mark Addison Esq  
Private Secretary to  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

22 April 1985

Dear Mr Addison

Thank you for your letter of 9 April.

PM's visit to  
Sewerfield?

At the pre-trial review, Counsel indicated that the case should last about six weeks. The judge did not dissent. It should therefore be completed in mid July which leaves three clear months before the visit would take place. I believe this is a satisfactory margin. However, we cannot, of course, advise on the likelihood or timing of any appeal until the trial is complete. Therefore whilst I suggest you confirm the proposed date it may need to be reconsidered at that stage.

BNFL and the CEGB advise that the programme will present no logistical problems. I attach a revised programme based on the Company's advice for the three sites you have chosen. This is very provisional and I include it only as a broad illustration of how the day could take shape.

Yours sincerely  
E G Huke

DEH to check on whether  
itinerary is car or helicopter. I  
think we would prefer to  
visit individual sites.

E G HUKE  
Private Secretary

DEH confirm helicopter at  
every stage  
MAY 24/4

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

8:30 Leave Northolt  
9:20 Arrive Speke Airport  
9:45 Arrive Capenhurst  
10:15 Tour of Plant 13/4  
11:30 Leave Capenhurst  
12:00 Arrive Heysham  
Lunch with tour of plant 2 1/2  
14:30 Leave Heysham  
15:00 Arrive Sellafield  
15:30 Open SIXEP and Pond 5 2 3/4  
Tour of Plant  
17:45 Leave Sellafield  
Helicopter to Barrow (18:00)  
19:15 Arrive Northolt

