

NOTE FOR THE FILE

Prime Minister's Proposed Visit to Sellafield etc  
on 1 November

I have put the proposal that the Prime Minister should visit Capenhurst, Heysham and Sellafield on 1 November to Energy and to MAFF.

Energy are enthusiastic and have proposed a timetable (attached). This involves flying to Speke and returning from Barrow, and helicopter transport between the sites.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours has been allowed for Capenhurst,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  (including lunch) at Heysham, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  at Sellafield.

MAFF argue that the proposed itinerary ignores the need for the Prime Minister to be seen to address concerns about the environmental impact of nuclear power. They take the view this will be a live issue at the time (which the Sizewell report due out later in the year, and the Select Committee on the Environment having started an inquiry into radioactive waste disposal).

MAFF therefore propose the Prime Minister should, at least, include a visit to Whitehaven Fish Market (near Sellafield/Seascale) on her itinerary. This could be achieved by compressing the existing programme throughout, and, subject to the times of the Market, inserting the Market visit between Heysham and Sellafield.

The Secretary of State for Agriculture believes that, whether or not Whitehaven is included, the Prime Minister's visit could give rise to substantial anti-nuclear demonstrations. This, in connection with his other worries about the proposal (including the possibility of timing difficulties in relation to the BNFL prosecution) leads him to be "uneasy" about the whole idea.

It will clearly be important to keep the date of the visit to as small a number of people as possible, for as long as possible, if it does go ahead. There are already worrying indications that the proposal for a visit on 1 November has filtered out. I have accordingly rung the Departments in receipt of my earlier letter to ask them to classify the correspondence CONFIDENTIAL.

We need to discuss at the meeting on security aspects of the Prime Minister's forthcoming engagements on 13 May.

MAA

Mark Addison

2 May 1985

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MR BUTLER

MR JOCE

MR SHERBOURNE

MISS CAINES

SUPT PARKER

COMMANDER BICKNELL

Meeting on 13 May to discuss  
Security Aspects of Forthcoming Engagements

I attach a note on a possible visit to nuclear sites on 1 November, which I should be grateful if we could discuss at our next meeting.

MAA

Mark Addison

2 May 1985

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