

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr Wicks  
Mr Flesher  
Miss Caines

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BNFL

At the weekend I discussed with Harold Bolter (Secretary) and Jeffrey Preece (Director of Information) the Prime Minister's visit to BNFL.

They were particularly concerned about the constraints imposed by security. I made it clear that I could not at this stage advise them about the release of the Prime Minister's attendance, but I was reasonably sure that we would not be able to announce or confirm this even 24 hours ahead.

The discussions were held against that background.

A copy of the programme is attached. I made the following points on the programme.

- i. it was important to ensure that the helicopter flight times were reasonably comfortable; a 15-minute flight from Heysham to Sellafield seemed particularly tight;
- ii. we were likely to lose time where the programme provided for tours of factories; it seemed particularly important to look at the Springfields visit, though care should be taken not to leave out just one sector of the factory since that would cause jealousies and perhaps bad feeling;
- iii. it was highly desirable from a presentational point of view for the Prime Minister to meet children in the Sellafield Exhibition Centre and for children to be much in evidence at the formal opening of the fuel handling plant.

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Other programme points discussed were:

a. BNFL is erecting a marquee outside the entrance to the new fuel handling plant where the Prime Minister will unveil a commemorative plaque; she will meet guests in this marquee and not, as the programme says, in the Assembly Hall;

b. the unveiling gave the Prime Minister an opportunity to make a positive, short speech for the television cameras and press; BNFL is preparing briefing and I urged them to do a covering note bringing out a substantial number of very positive points about the company's programme - eg investing £1m a day for 10 years; securing the jobs of 70,000 people; earning £130m a year in exports; the largest single British money earner in Japan; a major contributor to the improvement of the environment and facilities in West Cumbria.

c. BNFL wondered whether it was absolutely necessary for the Prime Minister to leave Sellafield at 5.30pm (I said much would depend on the night flying facilities. BNFL are to investigate).

On guests it was agreed:

i. BNFL would first check their lists with their own security people; their security would no doubt liaise with Detectives;

ii. BNFL will examine the possibility of having some of their overseas customers, including Japanese, at Sellafield;

iii. Miss Caines, who is to do a recce of all the sites next week would advise on invitations to MPs.

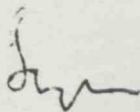
On press we agreed:

a. the Prime Minister should not give a press conference; that would only accentuate the negative - eg why are you, Prime Minister, consorting with a "criminal" company; instead the Prime Minister could say a few words to journalists and cameras through a microphone at a fixed position at the end of each visit;

b. given the problems over inviting the media, BNFL will, subject to security advice, invite a television, radio and press pool to take part in a facility visit; this pool would travel by helicopter which would land first to enable the pool to get pictures of the Prime Minister's arrival

c. the local press would be invited, as and when possible, to each plant; COI would assist in this;

d. Miss Caines would advise on fixed positions/roaming pool in the course of her recce.



BERNARD INGHAM

1 October 1985

Outline Programme for Proposed VIP Visit to  
British Nuclear Fuels plc, 1 November 1985

- 09.45 Arrive Capenhurst  
Proceed to Centrifuge Assembly Building  
Welcome  
Introductions and brief discussion  
Tour of Assembly Plant  
Proceed to Enrichment Plant E22  
Brief description of process followed by Tour  
of Plant
- 11.15 Depart Capenhurst
- 11.30 Arrive Springfields  
Proceed to General Manager's Dining Room for  
Introductions and brief description of  
Springfields activities  
Tour Uranium Casting and Machining Plants  
Tour AGR Pelleting Plant  
Tour Magnox Canning Plant  
Tour AGR Canning and Assembly Plant  
Proceed to General Manager's Dining Room  
Tour of Pressurised Water Reactor Fuel Assembly  
Plant
- 13.00 Depart Springfields
- 13.15 Arrive Heysham
- 15.00 Depart Heysham
- 15.15 Arrive Sellafield  
Proceed to Exhibition Centre  
Introductions and brief description of Sellafield  
Tour of Apprentice and general worker training  
facilities

Proceed to new Site Ion Exchange Effluent Plant and new Fuel Handling Plant entrance

Unveil Commemorative Plaque

Tour new Fuel Handling Plant including visit to Fuel Receipt Facilities, Inlet Cell, Storage Ponds and Magnox Fuel Decanning Cells

Tour new Site Ion Exchange Effluent Plant (SIXEP) including visit to Control Room

Proceed to Assembly Hall for informal discussion with invited Guests

17.30

Depart Sellafield