

GRS 260

CONFIDENTIAL

No 10 Downing St

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FM OSLO

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 33

OF 281600Z FEBRUARY 86

mt

MY TELNO 31: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. I HAVE NOW DISCUSSED THEIR IDEAS IN MORE DETAIL WITH MR WILLOCH'S OFFICE. WILLOCH FEELS THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE INTERESTED TO SEE RATHER MORE OF NORWAY THAN JUST OSLO AND THAT A VISIT TO THE ARCTIC MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF OUR CLOSE DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP. THEY HAVE NOT HOWEVER WORKED OUT FLYING TIMES, WHICH INEVITABLY AFFECT THE PRACTICALITY OF THESE IDEAS, AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT SORT OF AIRCRAFT THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT USE.

Love to go

to the Arctic

mt

2. AT TROMSO THERE ARE UNDERGROUND SUBMARINE PENS OF MUCH INTEREST AND IT IS ALSO FAIR TO DESCRIBE TROMSO AS EMERGING AS THE CAPITAL OF NORTH NORWAY. ON THE OTHER HAND EVEN IN THE MOST MODERN AIRCRAFT AN HOUR'S FLYING TIME COULD BE SAVED BY VISITING BODO INSTEAD AND THIS IS WHERE THE NORTHERN NORWAY COMMAND IS SITUATED.

3. IF THE IDEA OF SPENDING MOST OF THE FIRST DAY IN ARTIC NORWAY APPEALED TO THE PRIME MINISTER BODO MIGHT BE BEST IF THE AIM WAS TO REACH OSLO IN TIME FOR A DINNER BY MR WILLOCH IN AKERSHUS CASTLE ON THE 11TH. AN ALTERNATIVE HIS OFFICE SUGGESTS HOWEVER IS THAT HE SHOULD GIVE AN EARLY DINNER THAT NIGHT IN TROMSO BEFORE FLYING TO OSLO TO SPEND THE NIGHT AND SHOULD THEN GIVE LUNCH HERE ON 12 SEPTEMBER FOR THOSE HE WOULD LIKE THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEET IN OSLO.

4. WE LEFT IT THAT I WOULD PUT THESE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS TO YOU AND THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER THEM OR ALTERNATIVES IN MORE DETAIL ONCE WE KNEW HOW THEY STRIKE THE PRIME MINISTER AND WHAT AIRCRAFT SHE MIGHT USE.

BENTLEY

LIMITED

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DEF. D

ESS D

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NEWS D

PROTOCOL

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR EGGAR

MR JEREK THOMAS

MR RAYFORD

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File No
33
a/c P Cadock

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY

Oslo telegram No. 33 mentioned Mr. Willoch's suggestion that the Prime Minister might begin her visit to Norway by spending the first day in arctic Norway. The Prime Minister is attracted by this idea and would be very ready to go to either Tromso or Bodo on 11 September with a further programme in Oslo on 12 September.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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