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MR INGHAM

TOKYO SUMMIT, SUNDAY 4 MAY - TUESDAY 6 MAY  
PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

Introduction

This note complements the general note done by Miss Waghorn (attached), following our recent recce to Tokyo.

Since the Prime Minister's party will be visiting South Korea before Tokyo, a separate note will in due course be prepared on the press arrangements there.

Accreditation

As you know, I have already sent out accreditation forms under an Operational Note to the UK media and UK-based media (on COI lists as follows: News Editors, City Editors, Commonwealth Correspondents, American Correspondents, Picture Editors and News Agencies, Radio and TV Correspondents and Overseas Correspondents). The response so far has been only modest, so I intend to issue a reminder shortly.

Travel

There will be a small party of journalists (up to 12) travelling with the Prime Minister's party to South Korea and onwards to Tokyo (but not with her party back to London because there will be no room for them). The list to date includes TV journalists (TV crew members are expecting to travel ahead).

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The accompanying press will be able, by their normal prompt disembarkation, to cover the Prime Minister's disembarkations, with the proviso that when she arrives at Tokyo Haneda Airport there will probably not be time - due to traffic restrictions - for the accompanying press to cover both the arrival and the subsequent welcoming ceremony in the Akasaka Palace. There will, however, be transport from Haneda provided for the accompanying journalists by the Japanese authorities.

Accommodation

For reasons of security, all the delegations (except the Americans, who will be accommodated elsewhere in Tokyo) are likely to be in the tower block of the New Otani Hotel.

You (and Mr Meyer and Mr Culpin) will have individual rooms in the tower block on one of the floors below the floor occupied by the three Ministers and the Private Offices. Movement between floors is a matter of seconds. You yourself will have a direct-dial telephone line which will give you dialled access inter alia to London and to the UK Press Centre in the hotel.

I shall be in a suite - the 'Press Suite' - in the main body of the hotel, where the press will be. Nearby will be rooms for Beth Frier, and the Embassy's Information Counsellor (Alan Pinnell) and Press Attaché (Simon Sherrington).

The Press Suite is where you would do your late night briefings, because the press will not be allowed into the tower block of the hotel. The Press Suite will have the necessary telephone lines for COI (Bob Gair) to relay your late night briefings back to London live.

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To pass from the tower block to the main body of the hotel takes a minute or two only, along one of the ground level connecting floors.

The Press Centres

The National Press Centres will be situated on two of the ground floors in close proximity. The UK has been provisionally allocated a room on the lower floor, along with the Japanese Press Centre. Also on this floor is the (vast) room where the final joint Communique will be given.

As proposed, the UK Press Centre will be in the largest of the rooms available for National Press Centres (the American journalists will be in a different hotel on their own). The final decision on the allocation of rooms to National Press Centres may depend in part on how many accreditations the Japanese receive from the UK and other Summit countries. We have of course stressed the need to accommodate a very large attendance at the Prime Minister's final Press Conference. Furthermore, since our visit, we have learned of Reuter's wish to locate their battery of equipment in our Press Centre. We are hoping to accommodate them.

The equipment in our Press Centre will comprise all the normal equipment viz working desks, typewriters, photo-copiers, a notice board, CCTV, a public address system, and computer displays of operational media information. Mr Pinnell is keeping an eye on the details.

Mr Pinnell and I have agreed a lay-out of the UK Press Centre which would provide a smaller screened-off area for our own Press Office working area, and a much larger area,

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one-third of which would be a journalists' working area and the balance for briefings and press conferences. This latter area could be extended to include the journalists' working area for the occasion of the final press conference.

For our Press Office we have asked, among other things, for a fax machine and a photo-copying collating machine - vital components of the COI transcript operation, as you will recall from Bonn - and for direct dial telephone lines.

Our Press Office to be manned by Beth Frier and by Embassy Information Staff.

Our Press Office would be convenient for the Prime Minister to do radio interviews after her press conference, and possibly also her TV interviews, although the latter could be done without real difficulty in the main briefing area, as in Bonn. TV interviews with other Ministers during the Summit may have to be done in the temporary studios being set up by the TV organisations on other floors of the hotel.

In addition to the National Press Centres there will be a Common Press Centre for non-Summit country media; banking facilities; and a large restaurant providing free meals between 7 am and 11 pm. The Japanese authorities told us that they might also provide free late night food at snack bars in the hotel.

Since most journalists will be booked into rooms in the hotel, quite a lot of their filing will take place from their rooms, which should take some pressure off the facilities in our Press Centre. The time difference - Tokyo will be 8 hours ahead of London in May - should make for easier deadlines at the Tokyo end.

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Access/Passes

There will be a tight security cordon around the combined area of the Akasaka Palace and the New Otani Hotel. This will make it difficult for the media to move away from the hotel.

Access to the Akasaka Palace for the Press will be confined to photographers, and will be for the purpose of photo-calls only. Access will be controlled through passes additional to those required for access to the hotel.

Access to the Akasaka Palace for yourself and other key officials will be, as for previous Summits, at two levels of security. Access to the upper floor - the inner sanctum - will be very limited, but the Japanese authorities seemed to be working towards a system to enable key officials to gain access on exchangeable pass basis.

Photo-calls

The Japanese have not worked out a full schedule of photo-calls within the timetable of meetings. However, there would be the normal opportunities such as the welcoming ceremony, the group photographs and certain meetings and meals.

Where a tight pool is operating, it is likely that only Japanese television would be allowed in, with other nations being permitted still photographers only. (We will have to consider how to accommodate Peter Jordan within the latter.)

For photo-calls at bilateral meetings, the arrangements used at Bonn are anticipated - namely, that the host country

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will organise them. Alan Pinnell will take this on.

Transport

A car - probably an Embassy car, with an English speaking driver - will be reserved for your use. Other cars should be available for Press Officials as required. NB There is a walk of less than 5 minutes between the Asasaka Palace and the New Otani Hotel.

Transport for the press will hardly be a problem, given that they will be more or less confined to the New Otani Hotel. However, there will be transport from the airport for press teams accompanying Heads of State/Government.

Video Conferencing

The latest position on the free video conferencing facility offered by British Telecom to the British Delegation is that we have provisionally arranged to have access to a 2 hour slot between Tokyo and London from 5 pm to 7 pm on Tuesday, 6 May. The Tokyo studio would be situated in the New Otani Hotel, either in the Common Press Centre or in a suite in the hotel.

We have established that the facility would not permit us to link up journalists in London live with our press conferences and briefings in Tokyo. We do not think it worthwhile to arrange set-piece interviews for Ministers in Tokyo with a necessarily small number (a maximum of 8) journalists in London. Rather we see an opportunity for officials in Tokyo to try out the facility informally as a means of talking to their counterparts in London (preferably in a room in the Cabinet Office). This is partly with an eye on the use which FCO might make of video conferencing

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between London and Brussels, initially during the UK Presidency of the EC later this year. Of course, Ministers themselves could try out the facility between Tokyo and London.

Press Interviews

The Prime Minister had decided not to give any pre-Summit interviews to the Japanese media in London, so we have redirected bids to other Ministers: I understand that Sir Geoffrey Howe is in principle willing to give pre-Summit interviews. However, we are already being asked whether the Prime Minister would give interviews to the Japanese media in Tokyo.

*N. Towers*

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PRESS OFFICE  
13 March 1986

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