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*ccpc*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 March 1986

*Dear Charles,*

The Prime Minister's Visit to Norway

The Embassy in Oslo have reported that a visit on 11 and 12 September would suit the Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr Kare Willoch. He has suggested that the Prime Minister's programme might include a visit to Arctic Norway. I enclose a copy of the Embassy's reporting telegram. I note from your letter of 5 March that the Prime Minister is attracted by this idea.

Two possible destinations in Arctic Norway are mentioned - Tromso and Bodo. We suggest that the Prime Minister visit Tromso, a commercial centre and the most important city in Northern Norway. A particular advantage of a visit to the north would be to underline our commitment to the defence of NATO's northern flank. Tromso would suit this purpose well: there is a Norwegian naval base nearby at Olafsværn, which the Prime Minister could visit. While the HQ of Defence Command Norway (COMMON) is at Bodo, it is a less important city than Tromso. Lady Young visited COMMON in November last year.

We assume that the Prime Minister would use an RAF aircraft, thus allowing greater flexibility in travelling. Norwegian local time will be one hour in advance of British Summer Time. If the Prime Minister made an early start, she could fly direct to Tromso (about three and a half hours) on the morning of 11 September. She might plan to arrive at 1130 local time to carry out a civic programme including a lunch, and a visit to Olfasvern. She could travel on to Oslo (about one hour 50 minutes) in the late afternoon in time for a dinner which Mr Willoch would host that evening. Talks with Mr Willoch would take place on the morning of 12 September followed by a lunch given by the Ambassador, Sir William Bentley. The Prime Minister could return to London the same day after visiting NATO's AFNORTH (Allied Forces North) HQ just outside Oslo. CINCNORTH is General Sir Geoffrey Howlett.

We should welcome the Prime Minister's views on these proposals. If she is content with the outline suggested, the

/Embassy

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Embassy will consider further details with Mr Willoch's office.

Yours ever,

*Len Appleyard*  
(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

18 March 1986

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY**

Thank you for your letter of 18 March about the Prime Minister's visit to Norway.

I am confident that the Prime Minister would prefer Tromsø to Bodø, and would be content with the sort of programme described in your letter, including the early start on 11 September. I should be grateful if the Embassy would now work up a full draft programme with the Norwegian Prime Minister's office.

(Charles Powell)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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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

EC'D (P)

EC'D (E)

NEWS D

PROTOCOL

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR EGGAR

MR JEREK THOMAS

MR RAYFORD

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