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## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 April 1986

Dear Colin,

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY

Thank you for your letter of 24 April about the programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Norway. It is rather far ahead to consult her about any of this but I am fairly confident of her views and what follows can be taken as a firm guide for planning, subject to final confirmation nearer the time.

In general, I am content with the proposals in your letter. I think that I recall seeing a telegram to the effect that Mr. Willoch will probably want to fly ahead of the Prime Minister to Oslo to greet her on arrival but if this is not the case, I am sure that the Prime Minister would be willing, in principle, to travel south with Mr. Willoch, provided that we can have at least one Private Secretary and one detective on the aircraft. But, before reaching a final decision on this, we must have a security assessment that this is acceptable. You may like to ask the Cabinet Office to put this in hand.

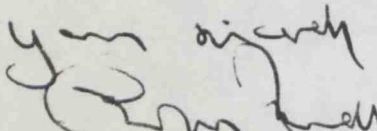
An hour will be adequate for the Prime Minister to rest and change before dinner.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would be grateful for Sir William Bentley's offer of hospitality and ready to take it up provided that he is confident that the Norwegians would not be put out. We would have to ask him to put up also one Private Secretary and one detective. If this cannot be done, we shall have to revert to the Norwegian Government Guest House.

I agree that an agenda for talks can only be settled nearer the time. In principle, the Prime Minister will be accompanied by a Private Secretary and her spokesman.

I am sure the Prime Minister would be content to visit the Viking Ship Museum. A press conference is essential. The Prime Minister would be honoured to lunch with the King on 12 September and ready, I am sure, to host an evening reception at 1730. She would leave direct from this for the airport for the return journey to London.

There is of course no objection to the Norwegian Minister of Defence accompanying the Prime Minister to the HQ of AFNORTH.

Yours sincerely  
  
 (C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sew

PM tour  
 postponed  
 see  
 Norway:  
 Relations:  
 Feb 1981  
 CDPT to FCO  
 9 May 1986

cc/c  
D/C

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 April 1986

*Dear Charles,*The Prime Minister's Visit to Norway: 11 and 12 September

In your letter of 18 March you asked that the Embassy in Oslo work up a full draft programme for this visit with the Norwegian Prime Minister's Office. The results are set out in Oslo telegrams 60 and 61 (copies <sup>attached</sup> attached).

Telegram 60 comments on the draft programme and seeks the Prime Minister's views on certain elements. Our views are as follows.

11 September

Serial 1103 - We agree with the suggestions for the programme in Tromso.

Serial 1104 - We see advantage in the Prime Minister travelling with Mr Willoch from Tromso to Oslo, thus allowing an opportunity for a tete-a-tete. The Embassy suggest that the Norwegians would probably expect the Prime Minister to travel in Mr Willoch's aircraft. Is that acceptable? (We understand from the RAF that there is no difference in flying time between the VC10 and the Falcon aircraft used by the Norwegians.)

Serial 1106 - A little over an hour would be available to the Prime Minister to rest and change before dinner. If she would like longer, arrangements could be made to leave Tromso earlier.

Serial 1109 - For the reasons given in Oslo's telegram, we suggest that the Prime Minister stay with Sir William Bentley. We believe that the Norwegians would quite understand if she did so.

12 September

Serial 1202 - We suggest that we consider an agenda and participation nearer the time.

Serial 1203 - We agree that a visit to the Viking Ship Museum would be interesting. It would also give satisfaction to the

/Prime



Prime Minister's Norwegian hosts, for whom the Museum is of importance as virtually the only major example of their cultural heritage located in Oslo (most of it being, for historical reasons, in Copenhagen or Stockholm).

Serial 1204 - A press conference would certainly be valuable.

Serials 1206 & 1207 - King Olav has strong links with Britain and the British Royal Family. It would be entirely appropriate for the Prime Minister to lunch with the King on 12 September. We believe that the Norwegians would expect some form of return hospitality and hope that the Prime Minister will agree to host an evening reception at 1730.

Serial 1209 - We see no objection to the proposal that the Norwegian Minister of Defence accompany the Prime Minister to the HQ of AFNORTH.

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY

1. WE HAVE NOW DISCUSSED WITH MR WILLOCH'S OFFICE THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN THE PRIVATE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF 18 MARCH TO NO 10. MIFT CONTAINS THE RESULTING DRAFT PROGRAMME, WHICH IS ALSO BEING SUBMITTED TO MR WILLOCH. THE AIR TIMINGS ASSUME TRAVEL BY RAF VC10.

## 2. COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SERIAL NO 1103 - THE NORWEGIANS ARE STILL WORKING ON MORE DETAILED TIMINGS FOR TROMSO. THEY SAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE LUNCH GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR NEED NOT BE LONG HE WOULD WISH IT TO BE A 'PROPER' LUNCH. IN ADDITION TO THE NAVAL BASE THEY WOULD LIKE THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEE SOMETHING OF THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN NORTHERN NORWAY: HENCE THE PROPOSAL TO VISIT A FISHING VILLAGE, WHICH COULD BE DONE EN ROUTE TO OR FROM OLAFSVERN. THEY ALSO RECOMMEND A SHORT VISIT TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OBSERVATORY, WHERE SOME UNIQUE WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THIS PHENOMENON.

1104 - THE NORWEGIANS BELIEVE (BUT ARE NOT YET CERTAIN) THAT MR WILLOCH WILL WISH TO ACCOMPANY MRS THATCHER THROUGHOUT THEIR PROGRAMME. THEY POINT OUT THAT IF THEY WERE TO TRAVEL TOGETHER TO OSLO IT WOULD OFFER A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A TETE-A-TETE DISCUSSION. BUT IF THIS APPEALED TO MRS THATCHER THE NORWEGIANS WILL PROBABLY SUGGEST TRAVEL IN THEIR AIRCRAFT AS THEY FEEL IT COULD BE THOUGHT INAPPROPRIATE FOR WILLOCH TO TRAVEL ON HIS OWN PATCH IN ONE FROM THE RAF. HOWEVER NORWEGIAN VIP TRAVEL IS NORMALLY BY FALCON, WHICH IS A GOOD DEAL SLOWER THAN A VC 10 AND ONLY SEATS NINE.

1106 - DOES THIS LEAVE ENOUGH TIME BEFORE DINNER? IF NOT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO ADVANCE DEPARTURE FROM TROMSO RATHER THAN DELAYING THE DINNER, WHICH IS ALREADY RATHER LATE BY NORWEGIAN STANDARDS.

1109 - OVERNIGHT STAY: THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, WHICH IS IN THE MIDDLE OF OSLO, CAN ACCOMMODATE 5 PERSONS IN SINGLE ROOMS OR 9 WITH SOME DOUBLING UP. HOWEVER MR AND MRS THATCHER MAY PREFER TO STAY WITH ME WHERE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH LONDON WILL BE MUCH MORE READILY ACCESSIBLE. I COULD ALSO ACCOMMODATE ONE OTHER PERSON OR COUPLE, THE REST GOING EITHER TO THE GUEST HOUSE OR A SUITABLE HOTEL. ALTHOUGH THE NORWEGIANS SAY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT NORMALLY STAY AT THE GUEST HOUSE THEY WOULD BE CONTENT WITH THIS ALTERNATIVE SHOULD IT BETTER SUIT THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISHES.

1202 - OFFICIAL TALKS: THE NORWEGIANS SUGGEST THAT TWO HOURS SHOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT (THE TALKS MUST END BY 1045 AS THE KING ALWAYS HOLDS A PRIVY COUNCIL MEETING AT 1100 ON FRIDAYS).

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THEY WOULD EXPECT TO COVER THE NORMAL RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND BELIEVE MR WILLOCH WILL BE SUPPORTED BY ONE OR TWO OTHER MINISTERS. THEY WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN IN DUE COURSE WHO WILL ACCOMPANY MRS THATCHER.

1203 - THE NORWEGIANS ARE KEEN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD SEE SOMETHING UNIQUE TO OSLO AND SUGGEST A VISIT TO THE SHIPS MUSEUM, WHICH IS OF MUCH INTEREST AND WOULD STRIKE THE RIGHT NOTE WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HERE.

1204 - I HAVE ASSUMED THE PRIME MINISTER WILL WISH TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AND 45 MINUTES IS ALLOWED FOR THIS. THERE IS A SUITABLE ROOM IN MY OFFICES, WHICH ARE EN ROUTE FROM THE SHIPS MUSEUM TO THE PALACE.

1206/1207 - DESPITE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OPINION (MY TELNO 41) THAT THE KING MIGHT BE CONTENT WITH AN AUDIENCE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE BELIEVE HM WOULD BE VERY KEEN TO OFFER LUNCH FOR ABOUT TWENTY: THEY SAY THIS IS THE NORMAL FORM AND THAT IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO DEPART FROM IT IN THE CASE OF A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER. THEY SUGGEST THAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY HOSPITALITY COULD BE PROVIDED IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE ABLE TO FIND TIME FOR A RECEPTION BEFORE LEAVING FOR LONDON THAT EVENING. THIS IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM THE PROPOSALS IN THE PRIVATE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF 18 MARCH AND I HOPE THAT, GIVEN THE FIRMNESS OF NORWEGIAN VIEWS ABOUT THE KING'S LUNCH, WE CAN AGREE.

1209 - THE NORWEGIANS LIKE THE IDEA OF A VISIT TO AFNORTH AND SAY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO ACCOMPANY MRS THATCHER THERE: I AM SURE THIS IS RIGHT.

1212 - WE COULD IF NECESSARY BRING THE RECEPTION FORWARD HALF AN HOUR BUT A START EARLIER THAN 1700 WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

3. THIS STRIKES ME AS A WORTHWHILE AND BALANCED PROGRAMME AND I HOPE IT WILL COMMEND ITSELF TO THE PRIME MINISTER. BUT THERE IS OF COURSE PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES SHOULD THAT BE HER WISH AND OF COURSE WE STILL AWAIT MR WILLOCH'S VIEWS.

4. I SHALL TELEGRAPH SEPARATELY ABOUT A SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR MR THATCHER. POINTS OF DETAIL ARE COVERED IN A LETTER FROM HEAD OF CHANCERY TO WED BY THE NEXT BAG.

BENTLEY

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NEWS D.

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

SIR W. HARDING

MR DAVID THOMAS.

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MIPT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY: DRAFT PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

SERIAL TIME EVENT

1101 0700 DEPART LONDON

1102 1130 ARRIVE TROMSO

1103 LUNCH GIVEN BY GOVERNOR OF TROMSO. VISIT NORWEGIAN  
NAVAL BASE AT OLAFSVERN: FISHING VILLAGE: NORTHERN  
LIGHTS OBSERVATORY.

1104 1630 DEPART FOR OSLO

1105 1820 ARRIVE OSLO

1106 1840 ARRIVE BRITISH EMBASSY

1107 1945 LEAVE EMBASSY

1108 2000 DINNER GIVEN BY NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER AT AKERSHUS

1109 2300 DINNER ENDS: RETURN TO EMBASSY FOR OVERNIGHT STAY

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

1201 0830 LEAVE EMBASSY FOR PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

1202 0845- OFFICIAL TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS  
1045

1203 1100 VISIT EXHIBITION OF VIKING SHIPS, KONTIKI ETC.

1204 1200 PRESS CONFERENCE AT EMBASSY

1205 1300 LEAVE EMBASSY FOR PALACE

1206 1315 AUDIENCE WITH HM THE KING

1207 1330 LUNCH GIVEN BY HM THE KING

1208 1445 LEAVE PALACE FOR HQ AFNORTH

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/1209 1505

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- 1209 1505 ARRIVE HQ AFNORTH: TOUR OF HQ, INCLUDING BUNKER
- 1210 1605 LEAVE HQ AFNORTH
- 1211 1625 ARRIVE EMBASSY
- 1212 1730- RECEPTION AT EMBASSY  
1900
- 1213 1915 LEAVE FOR AIRPORT
- 1214 1935 ARRIVE AIRPORT
- 1215 1955 DEPART FOR LONDON
- 1216 2055 ARRIVE LONDON

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