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Prime Minister  
The Foreign Secretary

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

recommends that you agree to go ahead with your visit to Norway despite the change of Government.

5 June 1986

He makes it sound as though the alternative is cancellation. In fact we would postpone it, & this would be manageable. But it's a short visit, & good reasons to go.

Dear Charles,

Agree to maintain the visit?

Proposed Visit of Prime Minister to Norway: 11 and 12 September

C.D.P.  
Yes Mr 5/6.

In your letter of 9 May about messages following the change of Norwegian government, you said that the Prime Minister's present intention was not to proceed with her visit to Norway planned for 11 and 12 September. The Foreign Secretary very much hopes that the Prime Minister will reconsider this.

The invitation to go to Norway is longstanding. It was issued by Mr Willoch when he came to London in March 1982 and renewed several times since. In separate conversations since the formation of the new Norwegian government with Sir William Bentley, HM Ambassador in Oslo, both Mr Willoch and the new Norwegian Prime Minister, Mrs Brundtland, have said how much they are looking forward to the visit. Mr Willoch remarked that it would be a notable Anglo/Norwegian event. Mrs Brundtland repeated the sentiment in her reply to the Prime Minister's message of congratulation (telegram attached).

Norway is an important NATO Ally and commercial partner with which we have traditionally warm and friendly relations. Partly because of wartime links, the Norwegians themselves attach particular importance to their relationship with the UK. But no British Prime Minister has paid an official bilateral visit to Norway since at least 1945. This situation has not gone unnoticed: mild criticism has been voiced in the past by influential Norwegians and by the press, and comparisons drawn with other European Allies - Kohl and Mitterrand for example visited Oslo in 1984. In these circumstances and given that leaked information about the Prime Minister's planned visit has appeared in Norwegian newspapers, cancellation will inevitably give rise to adverse public comment.

/Mrs Brundtland



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Mrs Brundtland's own political views are not in conflict with Norway's playing a full part in NATO. But there is strong support in her Labour Party and its coalition partner, the Socialist Left Party, for such notions as Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and a nuclear freeze. She will accordingly be under pressure to take up unhelpful positions, and it is the more important that we are in a position to strengthen her resolve. A visit by the Prime Minister in September would provide an important opportunity to do so, and to put across British views on a variety of issues.

Planning for the Prime Minister's visit is, as you know, already well advanced. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall ask the Embassy to take up the threads with Mrs Brundtland's office. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, we see no reason why the shape of the programme, including a visit to Tromso in Northern Norway, need be altered.

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

6 June 1986 PC

**PROPOSED VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO NORWAY: 11 AND 12 SEPTEMBER**

Thank you for your letter of 5 June about the Prime Minister's planned visit to Norway on 11 and 12 September. I think that on reflection the Prime Minister will agree to maintain this visit and discussions may go ahead with the Norwegian Government on this basis. I agree that we should try and stick to the programme originally envisaged.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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FM OSLO  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 105  
OF 261000Z MAY 86

YOUR TELNO 31 : MESSAGE TO NEW NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER

1. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM MRS  
BRUNDTLAND TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

QUOTE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONGRATULATION. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT  
LOOKS FORWARD TO A CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES  
AND TO WELCOME YOU AS OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST.

UNQUOTE

BENTLEY

LIMITED

WED

NEWS D

PROTOCOL D

INFO D

PS

PS LADY YOUNG

PS MRS CHALKER

PS MR BENTON

PS MR EGGER

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR RATTORD

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Relations: NORWAY Feb '81.

perhaps should be  
VISIT file.





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Charles

Norway - arrival.

The Ambassador would like to come on to the plane & greet the PM, so that the first person she meets on the ground is Mrs Brundtland.

Any objections?

Julie

4.9.86

No objection —  
perfectly normal

CDP

Told FCO 4.9.86.



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Caroline~~

Norway visit - gifts.

You mentioned to Suzanne yesterday a gift for Mrs Brundtland.

There's nothing on file to indicate that anything has been selected.

Julie

Julie

3.9.86

Erwinne is buying a shawl on Monday. It will have to be giftwrapped. Can you look out for it pl.

OK.

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