

GRS 175

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FM OSLO  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 199  
OF 130840Z AUGUST 86

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY

1. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT, IF THE PRIME MINISTER FELT SO INCLINED, A NOTABLE WAY TO MARK HER VISIT WOULD BE FOR HER TO PLANT A TREE IN THE RESIDENCE GARDEN. THERE IS A LONG TRADITION OF THIS IN OSLO, TREES HAVING BEEN PLANTED BY MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH AND NORWEGIAN ROYAL FAMILIES AND BY LORD MOUNTBATTEN. IF MRS THATCHER WERE TO PLANT A TREE, SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST 'POLITICAL' PERSONALITY TO DO SO, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE LANDMARK IN ANGLO-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS.

2. THE CEREMONY WOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES OR SO, AND COULD PERHAPS BE FITTED IN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR THE PALACE AT 1305 ON 12 SEPTEMBER. IT WOULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF ENABLING THE EMBASSY STAFF TO BE ON HAND FOR THE CEREMONY, WHEREAS IN THE PRESENT PROGRAMME THERE IS NO SUCH OCCASION.

3. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW REASONABLY SOON WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE ME TO PROCEED WITH THIS IDEA, SO THAT THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

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