


Prime Minister
To note only
16/9

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 September 1981

Dear Michael,
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Visit of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

We have been informed that Father Lini, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, intends to visit London during the latter half of November and he has asked for meetings with the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

It seems likely that Father Lini's visit is designed to seek further British aid (budgetary aid talks are due in Port Vila in October) in the event that French aid to Vanuatu is withdrawn.

Until we have exact dates for Father Lini's visit it will clearly not be possible for you to commit the Prime Minister to receive a courtesy call from him. As the Prime Minister will be meeting Father Lini at the CHGM in Melbourne, and as Father Lini's subsequent visit to the UK is not a visit of the highest importance, we would not wish to overstate the case for a call at No 10 Downing Street. But if the Prime Minister had half an hour available during the period of the visit, it would clearly be in the interests of our relations with Vanuatu if a call could be arranged: and this would be an appropriate courtesy for the first visit by the Prime Minister of a newly independent Commonwealth country to the UK. We shall therefore be in touch again when we have further information on dates. In the meantime, before meeting Father Lini in Melbourne, the Prime Minister will wish to be aware of his proposal to visit the UK. We shall therefore be including an appropriate reference to the proposed visit in the briefing for the CHGM.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Prime Minister
Continue to see Father Lini
for half an hour?*

28 October 1981

Ans Yes ms.

Dear Michael,

Visit of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

I wrote to you on 16 September to forewarn you that Father Lini would visit London in the latter half of November. We have now been informed that Father Lini will visit London accompanied by his Minister of Finance from 22-27 November. I understand that the Prime Minister may be able to receive Father Lini for a courtesy call at 4.30 on Monday 23 November.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that this call is acceptable. If it is, we shall of course provide a short brief nearer the time.

During his visit to London, Father Lini will call on Lord Carrington and will hold talks with Mr Marten and ODA officials. An official lunch is also being arranged for him.

*yours ever
Rodric Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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28 OCT 1981

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Sub
Vanuatu

30 October 1981

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF VANUATU

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 28 October and would be content to receive Father Lini for a courtesy call on Monday 28 November.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

or