

24/11

WED 29 NOV : 09.15 Photocall

PRIME MINISTER

- 1 Geoffrey Pattie has written to ask whether you would like to meet the two astronauts who will be on the Juno mission with the Soviets. The DTI thinks this is a good idea for a photo call, and so do I.
- 2 The only difficulty is about dates because the candidates are in Russia at present. The photo call would have to take place on either 27 or 28 November. I have not had the chance to consult Amanda as to whether it is possible on these days.

Happy that I consult Amanda to find a date?

- if reasonably

M.L.B

possible

not

WEDS 29 NOV 9.15am.

MARK LENNOX-BOYD

20 November 1989



the department for Enterprise

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Miss Caroline Slocock
The Private Secretary
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Department of
Trade and Industry

1-19 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Enquiries
01-215 5000

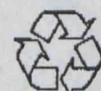
Telex 8811074/5 DTHQ G
Fax 01-222 2629

Direct line 01 215 5623
Our ref JW5ADZ
Your ref
Date November 1989

**SIR GEOFFREY PATTIE MP: PROPOSED PHOTOCALL BY THE PRIME
MINISTER WITH BRITISH ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES**

You asked for advice on the proposal by Sir Geoffrey Pattie that the Prime Minister should have a photocall with the British candidates to become astronauts on the Juno mission with the Soviets. Our advice would be strongly that she should if at all possible. It is a good example of our co-operation with the Soviet Union and the project has made its own way to success with commercial sponsorship and so whether Government should have provided some funding for it should cease to be an issue: indeed we can praise it, as an example of Ministers' philosophies in action. Nevertheless it may be necessary to guard against some carping criticism that having refused to fund the Juno project the PM is willing enough to join in an excellent 'good news' story. It should be possible to counter this however by some fairly upbeat praise of this successful co-operation with the Soviet Union which we welcome, of the spirit of adventure and courage of the astronauts, and of the commercial sponsorship as an excellent example of the Government's approach in successful operation. But it might also be possible to arrange the photocall at the House with some bipartisan presence, for example with Michael Marshall MP and Lord Shackleton also.

With the successful taking up of sponsorship slots in the Juno project we think the underpinning role of the Moscow Narodny Bank ceases to be a problem. We are providing scientific and technical help, on for example the choice of experiments and how to work them up, but not as noted above any funding. This may give rise to a passing problem over publicity arrangements if the sponsors wish to give particular privileges to a single



Recycled Paper



the department for Enterprise

television company, as they did when the astronauts were recently at the Royal Aerospace Establishment and we just alert you to this.



From The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Pattie, M.P.



House of Commons.
LONDON. SW1A 0AA.
Secretary 01-219 4055

9th November 1989

Dear Mark,

Thank you very much for
arranging for the Prime Minister to
meet Christine Keble. It was a
very good occasion & seemed to give
pleasure all round.

You will recall the Prime
Minister asking me about the progress
of astronaut selection for the future mission.

The position is that the final
four fly to Moscow on Sunday next for

for the visit and will return to the US
on Nov 24th That weekend we will
announce the two who will return to
the USSR for the 18 month term.

As I told you it looks highly
likely that Helen Sherman the Sheffield
University Chemistry graduate will be one of
the two and that information is given in
confidence

27th.
28th.

The two will return to Moscow on
Nov 29th Media coverage is already
intense. It seemed to me that a
'good luck' photo opportunity could be
a possibility with the Prime Minister.

If DTL advice were sought they



From The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Pattie, M.P.

House of Commons.
LONDON. SW1A 0AA.
Secretary 01-219 4055

2

would warn of the dangers of the P.M.
appearing to endorse the project. I do
not feel that the P.M. would be doing
other than wishing good fortune to two
young people from one country with whom
many other young people will soon seek
to identify.

I will be happy to make any
arrangements you wish.

Yours