



Agent General for Queensland,
392 & 393, Strand,
London, WC2R 0LZ

Cathie CR 20/8.

G.H.A.

Tel No. 01 836-1333.

10th August, 1984

Dear Mr Barclay,

The Agent-General for Queensland presents his compliments and wishes to thank you for your letter of 7th August 1984 advising him that the Prime Minister has kindly agreed to the Premier of the State of Queensland, Australia calling on her at 17.30 hours Monday 3 September 1984.

I have been directed to advise you that The Honorable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen KCMG, MLA., thanks the Prime Minister for her kind consideration and will be pleased to accept this appointment.

Yours sincerely,

John H Andrews
John H Andrews
Agent-General

Mr. D. Barclay,
Private Secretary,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

CONFIDENTIAL

file JH



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 August 1984

Premier of Queensland

Thank you for your letter of 2 August to Charles Powell advising on the request from the Agent-General for Queensland for a courtesy call by Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

BF | The Prime Minister is conscious that Sir Joh has had a remarkably long period of office, and she has decided to find the time to see him at 1730 on 3 September. I have replied accordingly to the Agent-General.

Could you please arrange appropriate briefing to reach us by close of play on Friday 31 August.

David Barclay

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 August 1984

Thank you for your letter of 11 July to Mr Butler, in which you conveyed a request from the Premier of Queensland to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister in September.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she would be glad to receive Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen at 1730 hours on Monday 3 September. I should be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether this time would be convenient for the Premier.

David Barclay

J H Andrews, Esq.

JH

CF: pps pte

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1730 on Monday 3 Sep

CEP
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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

The Agent-General for Queensland
has whether Sir J. Bjelke-Petersen
could pay a courtesy call between 3-7 September.

2 August 1984

2. You leave for Scotland on 5 September,
and 3/4 September are already pretty full, with
Mr. Fitzgerald here on the 3rd.

Dear Charles,
3. Agree to regret? Sir G. Howe
can see him.

Premier of Queensland

In your letter of 12 July, you asked for advice as
to whether the Prime Minister should receive a courtesy
call from the Premier of Queensland.

CDP
- - 6/8

Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen is an outstanding Australian
political figure and I attach a personality note. Mr Heath
and Sir Harold Wilson upheld the Prime Minister's right to
see acknowledged political figures from the Australian
states and, if necessary, to enter into substantive
discussion of the question of our residual constitutional
links with the states. But we realise that the Prime
Minister's diary is already very crowded, and we would
not wish to recommend that there is any particular reason
for her to see Sir Joh.

Given the Premier's standing in Australia we suggest
that you should reply to the Agent-General along the lines
of the attached draft, indicating that the Foreign Secretary
would be glad to see him at a mutually convenient time between
4 and 7 September.

I will see him - he
has had a remarkably long
period of office.

Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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BJELKE PETERSEN, THE HON JOHANNES ("JOH")

Premier of Queensland since 1968.

Born Dannevirke, New Zealand 1911 of Danish parents: father Lutheran pastor. Came to Queensland as a boy. Educated at Taabinga Village State School, Kingaroy. MLA for Nanangro 1947-50 and Barambah since 1950. State Minister for Works and Housing 1963, and later for Police and Aboriginal Affairs. Leader of the Queensland Country Party (since 1974 National Party), Premier since August 1968.

The only National Party State Premier, arguably the best known and certainly the most controversial State Premier nationally, he is a conservative man leading a generally conservative state. His family background, limited formal education and personal struggle to overcome polio in early childhood are perhaps an indication to his toughness, single mindedness and fundamentalism. He is a somewhat enigmatic and contradictory character. His hard line opposition to many aspects of trade unionism and the civil rights movement are undoubtedly dogmatic; he is probably more frequently than is true regarded as a dictator over his Cabinet. These considerations contrast strongly with his personal kindness and courtesy and he can be modest sometimes as his personal opponents find him arrogant at others.

With all this, he is a politician of great shrewdness and tactical skill with a thorough grasp of the traditional attitudes of the ordinary Queenslander towards public affairs. His political opinions are clear and forthright. Even when wrong, he gathers support for not being mealy-mouthed and for standing up for Queensland. This helps to explain why early in 1979 he achieved the ambition of having become the longest serving Queensland Premier.

He sets great store by the Monarchy, the monarchical system and the British connection, partly it is to be supposed out of tradition but more practically because he regards them as Queensland's main protection against encroachment upon State's rights by a centralist Federal Government - of what political flavour. He worked closely with Mr Fraser towards ousting the Whitlam Government but has resisted attempts by Mr Fraser's Government to gain a greater say in State Aboriginal affairs. His "States-rights-ism" and this positive personality and style strongly evoke either support or opposition and are significant reasons for his public prominence. In personal conversation he is quiet and agreeable, although attempts to initiate a discussion sometimes lead him to take off on to another theme. Not a good public speaker, but his personality and conviction help to put over the forthright and fundamentalist views which he expresses.

In office, his personality accentuates and dramatizes the tensions which always exist between the National Party and the Liberal Party in Coalition - to the delight of the media. It would be mistaken to conclude that the Premier does not enjoy the support in Government of a fair proportion of the Liberal membership, but his domination of Cabinet and the Coalition is likely to become even more marked following his decisive victory in the 1980 State elections, which confounded Liberal hopes of toppling the Nationals as senior Coalition partners. In 1978 the accusations that he had used his position for personal gain became louder. The fact that he and his family have become very well-to-do through business interests probably gives more colour than justification to such accusations.

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

J H Andrews Esq
Agent-General for Queensland
392 & 393 Strand
LONDON WC2R OLZ

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 11 July about the visit by the Premier of Queensland the Honourable Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen KCMG MLA from 3-7 September.

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister was most interested to hear that the Premier will be visiting this country. She would very much like to have had the opportunity for a discussion with him, but unfortunately her programme is extremely crowded at that period. She is very sorry to have to say that it will not therefore be possible on this occasion. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, would be very glad to see the Premier at a mutually convenient time. May I suggest that you make contact direct with his office (01-233-4650).

Enclosures-flag(s).....

Australia: Premi d'Australia:
July 79.

6 AUG 1984





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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 July 1984

Premier of Queensland

I attach a letter from the Agent General for Queensland asking whether the Premier of Queensland, Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, could make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister between 3 and 7 September.

CFT

I should be grateful for your advice. It would in fact be extremely difficult for the Prime Minister to see Sir Johannes at that time and I would want to put it to her only if you were to produce very compelling reasons why she ought to see him.

Charles Powell

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECL



Agent General for Queensland,
392 & 393, Strand,
London, WC2R 0LZ

July 11, 1984.

Dear Sir,

The Agent-General for Queensland presents his compliments and advises that he has been requested by the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., to enquire if it would be possible for him to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister later this year.

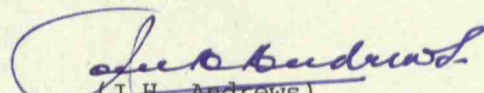
The Premier will be here in London on Monday, September 3 and Friday, September 7, 1984. By way of background, I mention that Queensland has been strongly represented for the past 27 years by the National-Liberal Coalition and from October 1983 by a National Party in its own right. Senator Lady Bjelke-Petersen, the wife of the Premier is an elected Senator for Queensland in the Upper House of the Australian Parliament in Canberra. Unfortunately the Senator is not able to accompany the Premier on this visit.

I would appreciate your advice if it would be possible for this call to be made since I know that my Premier would be honoured if his request was granted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,


(J.H. Andrews)
Agent-General.

F.E.R. Butler, Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON.
SW1.