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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 March 1986

Lord Napier has
undertaken to come
back to me.

CDP 2073.

Dear Charles,

HRH Princess Margaret's Visit to Vancouver

We spoke about the enquiry by Lord Napier as to whether HRH Princess Margaret might travel with the Prime Minister in the Concorde aircraft to Vancouver, as the Canadian Government were arranging a visit which would include her attendance at the 12 July performance of the Royal Ballet.

/ I attach copies of telegrams exchanged with our High Commission. You will see that the initial response of the new Secretary to the Governor General was very relaxed but that he has since discussed the question again with the Palace.

We have consulted Sir Derek Day, who is on leave in the UK. He agrees with our view that it would be inappropriate for HRH to arrive in Canada, as a member of the Canadian Royal Family, in the same aircraft as the British Prime Minister. Among other things, that would clearly lessen the impact of the Prime Minister's visit. There could also be significant difficulties of organisation, protocol and security. Sir Derek Day's view, which we share, is that it would be greatly preferable if the Princess could arrive earlier in Vancouver to attend the Royal Ballet Gala Performance and reception on 8 July, the opening night of the British Week. It seems from Ottawa telno 138 that this may not be possible but that the Princess might alternatively attend the performance on 13 July. This would certainly seem preferable to joint attendance by HRH and the Prime Minister on 12 July.

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We understand that Lord Napier discussed the matter further with Princess Margaret yesterday, and that he will shortly make contact with you again. I believe that the Princess has accepted that it would be best for her not to arrive by the same aircraft as the Prime Minister, but

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that she is reluctant to decline Sir John Tooley's invitation for her to attend the ballet performance on 12 July.

If you would find it helpful to go over all this with Sir Derek Day, he will be in the UK till early April and we could ask him to telephone you.

Yours ever

Robert Budd

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Private Secretary

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