



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 June 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO VANCOUVER

The Prime Minister is attending the Vancouver Expo exhibition from 11-13 June in order to help publicise the British Pavillion and the exports which it contains. As part of her visit the Prime Minister would like to host a reception in order to return the hospitality given by Canadian federal and provincial Ministers in Vancouver. The cost of the reception has been estimated by our Consul General in Vancouver at Can\$9,000 (about £4,000).

I should be grateful for authority for this expenditure to be incurred.

N.L. Wicks

Don Wood, Esq.,
Management and Personnel Office.

OA



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Mr. Wickes

I think to
try must give a
reception in Vancouver:
her visit is a
unique event. It would
be demeaning to have
to seek commercial
sponsorship.

Would you please
seek MPO authority for
the expenditure?

CDT 5/6.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION ON 12 JULY

We suggest that if the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher agreed to host a reception after the Royal Ballet performance it should be paid for by the Cabinet Office. The cost has been estimated by our Consul-General at Can\$9,000 (about £4,400). If the draft programme outline is accepted the reception would be the sole opportunity for the Prime Minister to offer hospitality to Federal and Provincial Ministers in Vancouver, in return for the lunch given by the Canadian Commissioner-General for the Expo (representing the Canadian Government). Commercial sponsorship of the Prime Minister's reception would mean that the sponsors would include a high proportion of guests of their choice; it would be preferable that we should have full control of the guest list. Another factor is that major sponsors of the Royal Ballet such as Barclays Bank were already committed to paying for the Royal Ballet's opening night dinner and reception on 8 July, before the date of the Prime Minister's visit was known; and commercial sponsors generally have already contributed generously to finance participation by British Army bands and other British entertainment groups. British firms and organisations such as Jaguar, British Rail and British Airways are planning to host their own receptions during the British Week (8-13 July), and at other times. The FCO overseas information budget has assumed a heavy burden in paying for the British pavilion (£1.5 million), for publicity in connection with British participation, and for local expenses by our Consul-General in Vancouver and our Commissioner-General for the Expo.