

② cc PC
✓ O/CPrime Minister

You might like Foreign and Commonwealth Office

to see this as

London SW1A 2AH

work in hand e

31 March 1988

Dear Charles
an illustration of what
is feasible. CAP 31/3

MS

Prime Minister's visit to Australia

Thank you for your letter of 27 March conveying the Prime Minister's views about her visit to Australia and the places she might visit en route.

Programme in Australia

We have asked John Coles in Canberra to take into account the Prime Minister's wish to include Perth in the itinerary. We have also asked him for a firm recommendation on where the Prime Minister's one major speech in Australia should be made. We will write again with more detailed proposals once John Coles has had a chance to send us his views.

Possible Stopovers

// Taking into account the Prime Minister's preferences, we have drawn up the two enclosed draft itineraries:

- the first includes stopovers in Islamabad (18 hrs on the ground including rest time in the night) and in Singapore (4½ hrs) on the outward leg, and in New Delhi (5 hrs) and Muscat (9 hrs, including rest time in the night) on the way back;
- the second includes overnight stops in Muscat and Singapore on the way out and a day in Fiji on the return journey (but see below on the merits of this idea).

Middle East

Present indications are that the Sultan may not visit London this summer which would make a stopover in Oman by the Prime Minister more desirable. Depending on where the Sultan is residing, this could be either at Muscat or Salalah, both of which can handle a VC10. (The timings for Salalah would be only marginally different from those on the enclosed draft itinerary.)

Sub-Continent

We agree that it would be right for the Prime Minister to stop in India as well as Pakistan if she is to visit the sub-continent at all. There are powerful arguments for stopovers in both, but also some drawbacks to consider. Much will depend for Pakistan on what happens in the Geneva talks: and for India on how the fraught relationship develops,



especially over the Extradition Treaty. It is still too early to make a recommendation either way. For the time being, it seems best to retain the option of stopovers in both Pakistan and India. Any stopover made in India, however, should be in New Delhi rather than Madras, because Rajiv Gandhi would expect to receive the Prime Minister in New Delhi.

South East Asia

The draft itineraries allow for a call at Singapore with enough time for a meal and talks with Lee. The Foreign Secretary strongly supports this idea.

The arguments for a short visit to Thailand are less compelling, but not negligible.

Fiji

The Foreign Secretary advises against a visit to Fiji by the Prime Minister in August. It would be a further encouragement to Ratu Mara in his search for a solution to Fiji's problems. But it would give us a higher profile in the difficult task of designing an acceptable constitution than we would wish. And a westabout return would preclude other stopovers which have a much higher priority for British interests. In any case, the international airport in Fiji is at Nadi, on the other side of the main island from Suva; a VC10 cannot land at Suva airport; it would therefore be necessary to take a smaller aircraft for the further journey from Nadi to Suva.

Mode of Travel

We have consulted the RAF about the reconfiguration of a VC10 to accommodate the press party in more comfort and the availability of an RAF Tristar. We shall write again as soon as we have their views.

Don't know
Alan (a)
 (R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
 PS/No 10 Downing Street

Outward Journey

Saturday 30 July

10.00 Depart London for Muscat
(8 hrs 15 min flying time)

21.15 Arrive Muscat
Technical stop (1½ hrs)

22.45 Depart Muscat for Islamabad
(3 hrs flying time)

Sunday 31 July

02.45 Arrive Islamabad
Rest) (18 Hrs)
Talks with Zia and Junejo)

20.45 Depart Islamabad for Singapore
(7 hrs flying time)

Monday 1 August

06.45 Arrive Singapore
Talks with Lee (4½ hrs)

11.15 Depart Singapore for Perth
(5 hrs flying time)

16.15 Arrive Perth

Return Journey

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Saturday 6 August

- 09.00 Depart Brisbane for Singapore
(7 hrs 55 min flying time)
- 14.55 Arrive Singapore
Technical stop (1½ hrs)
- 16.25 Depart Singapore for Delhi
(5 hrs 25 min flying time)
- 19.20 Arrive Delhi
Talks with Gandhi (5 hrs)

Sunday 7 August

- 00.20 Depart Delhi for Muscat
(3 Hrs 40 mins flying time)
- 02.30 Arrive Muscat
Rest) 9 hrs
Talks with Sultan)
- 11.30 Depart Muscat for London
(8 hrs 40 min flying time)
- 17.10 Arrive London

PMAAAC

Outward Journey

Saturday 30 July

- 09.00 Depart London for Muscat
(8 hrs 15 min flying time)
- 20.15 Arrive Muscat
Overnight stop - talks with Sultan

Sunday 31 July

- 09.00 Depart Muscat for Singapore
(7 hrs 20 min flying time)
- 20.20 Arrive Singapore
Overnight stop - talks with Lee

Monday 1 August

- 10.00 Depart Singapore for Perth
(5 hrs flying time)
- 15.00 Arrive Perth

Return Journey

Saturday 6 August

- 10.00 Depart Brisbane for Nadi
(3 hrs 20 min flying time)
- 15.20 Arrive Nadi
Fly to Suva (local aircraft - 30 mins flying time)
Overnight Suva

Sunday 7 August

- 14.30 Depart Suva for Nadi
- 15.00 Arrive Nadi
- 15.20 Depart Nadi for Honolulu
(6 hrs 20 mins flying time)

CROSS INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

Saturday 6 August

- 23.40 Arrive Honolulu
Technical stop (1½ hrs)

Sunday 7 August

- 01.10 Depart Honolulu for Washington
(9 hrs 5 mins flying time)
- 16.15 Arrive Washington (Andrews Air Force Base)
Technical stop (1½ hrs)
- 17.45 Depart Washington for London
(7 hrs flying time)

Monday 8 August

- 05.45 Arrive London Heathrow

Am notes: Australia

Jan 88

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