

PRIME MINISTER

YOUR VISIT TO TYNE AND WEAR: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS ETC

You are visiting Tyne and Wear on Friday, 12 March. The tour and press arrangements are as follows:

1. The ship launch at Austin and Pickersgill will attract most attention. Ship launches always have a special atmosphere and there are the obvious attractions of the bottle smashing on the bow and the ship sliding into the water. This occasion will also be a first. Since women traditionally launch ships you will obviously be the first British Prime Minister to do so. Also there will be two TV crews in addition to news teams. A BBC crew will be looking for footage to contribute to a documentary on the history of British shipbuilding, and another BBC crew is making a programme about Y.K. Pao and will also be there.
2. However, your day starts at NEI (Northern Engineering Industries) Power Engineering Ltd. As usual we hope to organise the press so that they do not trail around behind you and then try to crowd in as you make stops. I have arranged for them to move ahead of you to fixed photo opportunity points. You should be aware of the following:
 - on arrival at the factory you will be met outside (or inside if wet) Bay 4 by Duncan MacDonald, Chairman of NEI, and a party of six others from the company as well as Councillor Wheatley, the Mayor of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough.

- The workforce (about 100) will be assembled for a tape-cutting inauguration ceremony. There will be a microphone and PA system and a few words will be said. The highly mechanised facility is welding, bending, forming into platens, assembling and testing high quality tube for the steam generators at the Heysham 2 and Torness AGR nuclear power stations.
- your tour will include stops at a fixed head tube welding machine the company developed themselves. You will then climb some metal stairs to observe a numerically controlled pipe bending machine in action. You will see crack detection by the spray dye penetrant method, and bend ovality testing, before moving on to watch robot welding of element spacers to extremely close tolerances. NEI is the first company in the UK to use robot welders for this kind of high integrity work. There are 8½ million welds in the Heysham and Torness contract. You then move on to the largest heat treatment furnace in Western Europe, an hydraulic test-bed in which water, acid and hot air are pushed through the elements under pressure, and finally in this Bay a helium leak test device that carries out an "electronic sniff".
- The floors throughout this Bay are even and clean, though you should watch out for tracks let into the floor (some may be covered on the day) and trailing cables. You should also stand well back from the robot welders. Protective safety glasses will not be necessary, I am assured.

- You then pass down a corridor connecting two bays - passing a wall plaque commemorating your visit on the way.
- The Press will not accompany you on the second part of the tour because the work in the second bay is classified "commercial in confidence". The company's own photographer, may, however, remain with the party.
- Before entering this bay you will be required to put on a white coat and disposable paper over-shoes. These over-shoes tend to slide on the tiled and smooth painted floors. You will also go down a short flight of metal steps in them.
- This second bay, which is a "clean conditions" area and lightly pressurised, is where heater and re-heater AGR units are assembled. You will also see assembly work on the Dounreay replacement tube bundles for the prototype fast reactor.
- Again floors are smooth and clean, but watch for trailing cables and the slippery over-shoes.
- From this part of the factory you will walk (or go by car if wet) across the road to the main office block. This would be a suitable moment for an impromptu word with the Press. There is some concern that "right to work" or Socialist Workers' Party people may demonstrate at this point.
- In the office block you will be shown a nuclear power plant sectional model and then go to a conference room for coffee and a discussion covering the nuclear programme, the power industry and the Company's work overseas. This will include a

4½ minute audio visual presentation.

- In the conference room you will be presented with a candelabra in stainless steel boiler tube. Though magnificent, this is rather heavy to handle.
- It is possible that among the press party covering your tour will be Piers Merchant, news editor of The Newcastle Journal and Conservative candidate for Newcastle Central.
- It is worth noting that NEI Power Engineering is currently recruiting industrial chemists. The company has also had over 30 on YOP, with about a dozen subsequently taken on permanently.

3. The lunch for party workers is private except for the usual local photographers.

4. At Austin and Pickersgill you arrive at the shipyard through West Gate. This is one of four gates and its use on the day is known to only a few because it is thought that some groups may try a repeat performance of their demonstration at the gate when you visited in May 1980.

- On arrival you will go to the main office block to be greeted outside (inside if wet) by Mr Derek Kimber, Chairman of Austin and Pickersgill, and the ship-owner as well as a group of guests (those marked in the attached list).
- You will then be escorted on foot to the launch platform at the bow of the ship. A crowd of some 500 people - ship-yard workers and their families as well as people from the local community - will be behind ribboned barriers and you will walk through a six foot wide fenced off and carpetted walk-way to the launch platform.

- At the end of this walk-way on the right will be an area designated for school-children.
- A special platform has been erected for press and TV so that they have a good view of the launch platform and the launch itself. However, there may be some photographers - including Company ones - at your arrival point and at the end of the walk-way near the school-children.
- Company photographers will be around throughout the proceedings taking shots for a commemorative album of the occasion for both you and the ship-owner.
- To the left of the walk-way will be the band of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards who will play prior to the launch and provide a fanfare for the launch itself.
- Before climbing the staircase (quite steep) to the launch platform you will be presented with flowers by Mrs Ann Wilson, a computer department programmer/analyst in her twenties.
- All the other guests will already be in position on the platform before you arrive. Prior to the launch itself you will receive brief instructions from Mr Kimber on the best way to throw the bottle. This shipyard does not employ any of the new "pull a lever" or "press a button" launch procedures to break the bottle against the bow, but relies on the traditional method. You should be aware that the bottle will be scored and so should break easily. You should also be aware that it is considered "good luck" for the bottle to break at the first or third attempt, but not at the second. With the scoring and a word of technique from Mr Kimber, it should go first time.

- After the launch you will return to the car along the fenced alleyway and then drive through the yard to the personnel department and canteen building. Mr Kimber will ask you to remain in the office area for about 10 minutes while the guests are moved by coach to the canteen where refreshments will be served and short speeches and presentations made.
- In the canteen you will be presented with a small model of the ship you have just launched. There will also be a presentation to the Chairman of Sunderland Area Health Authority. Tradition has it that the lady launching the ship receives a gift. You have asked for the money (about £1,000) that would have been spent on this to go to a local hospital. Sir Y K Pao has matched this, and so two cheques will be presented. The money will be used to purchase special treatment equipment for the Monkwearmouth Orthopaedic Hospital.
- The press will not be admitted to the canteen. The company regards this part of the proceedings as private.
- Before departure you will have a private talk with Sir Y K Pao before passing through the canteen again to say goodbye. The cars will leave by North Gate.

5. Apart from the impromptu chance outside the factory at NEI, there is little time in the programme for a word with the press - Tyne Tees Television and Radio Metro have put in bids for set piece interviews. Content for me to turn them down?

6. Content with the tour programme and press arrangements?



HUGH COLVER
PRESS OFFICE

Austin & Pickersgill Limited

LAUNCH - m.v. "UNITED EFFORT

FRIDAY 12th MARCH 1982.

SHIPOWNERS' GUESTS.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher M.P.,
Sir Yue-Kong Pao ✕
Mrs. Anna Sohmen ✕
Master Andreas Sohmen ✕
Mr. William W.Y. Lee ✕
Mr. & Mrs. P. Cater
Mr. & Mrs. M.J. Blakely
His Excellency & Mrs. Ke-Hua ✕

Mr. Chen Wan Cheng
Mr. & Mrs. San Zhixing
Madam Shao Li
Lady Howe ✕
Mr. & Mrs. R. Atkinson, ✕
Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Parker, ✕
Lord McFadzean
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Huskisson
Mr. & Mrs. B. Keen
Sir Timothy & Lady Kitson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Greig
Mr. & Mrs. E.F. Shawyer

Lady Tilney
Mr. & Mrs. P. Tapsell
Mr. & Mrs. M.R. Baxter
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bessemer-Clark

Mr. & Mrs. J. Petty
Sir Maurice & Lady Hodgson (Launch only)
Sir John Saunders
Miss Rosemary Langford
Mr. & Mrs. G. Scott
Mr. & Mrs. M.J. Lyons
Mr. Y.K. Leung
Mr. Ying Tsien
Mrs. Lin Hai
Mr. Liu Ruoming & Mrs. Yu Gufeng ✕
Mr. Qiao Shangwei ✕
Mr. B. Laurance (Launch only)
Mr. & Mrs. T. Kuroiwa
Mr. T. Inoue
Mr. & Mrs. Maldwyn Drummond (Launch only)
Mr. & Mrs. M. Jopling (Launch only)

Sponsor.
Owner
Sir Y.K. Pao's daughter
Son of Mrs. Anna Sohmen.
Marine Navigation.
" "
" "

Ambassador, Embassy of The
People's Republic of China
Interpreter
Chinese Charge D'Affaires
Interpreter
Wife of Sir Geoffrey Howe
Chairman British Shipbuilder.
Dep. Ch. Exex. British Sh'Bdrs.
Rolls Royce Ltd.
Lloyds Register of Shipping.
A. Bilbrough & Co.Ltd.,

H. Clarkson & Co. Ltd.,
E.A. Gibson & Co. Ltd.,

James Capel & Co.
M.R. Baxter & Others
Gen. Manager, West of England
Mutual Protection Indemnity Ass
Shipping Corres. Daily Telegraph
Chairman I.C.I.

S'land Site Office.

" " "

Corresp. Xinhua News Agency
Wife of Head of Xinhua Bureau
M.D. Sinochart, Beijing.

Shipping Corresp. Lloyds List.

Kyodo News Service.
Ch'man Council of Maritime Tst.

LAUNCH - m.v. "UNITED EFFORT"

FRIDAY 12th MARCH 1982.

SHIPBUILDERS' GUESTS.

Mr. & Mrs. D.B. Kimber, *		
Mr. & Mrs. K. Douglas, *		
Mr. & Mrs. G.E. Ellard,		
Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Sheppard,		
Mr. & Mrs. N. Watson,		
Mr. & Mrs. F. Thompson,		
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Paterson,		
Mr. C.D.W. Langley.		
Mr. R. Carter,		
Dr. J.B. Varney.		
Mrs. M.L. Jeffrey,		
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Murray,		
Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Brotherton,		
Mr. & Mrs. P. Taylor,		
Mr. & Mrs. J. Pullen,		
Councillor & Mrs. T.M. Finnigan J.P.		
Mrs. J.M. Reeve	(LAUNCH ONLY)	
Mr. N. Petmezas,		
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Matthewson,		
Mr. & Mrs. L. Thorne,	(LAUNCH ONLY)	
Mr. & Mrs. J. Wile		
Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Wilkinson		
Mr. T. Ayre & Mrs. J. Skipp		
Mr. & Mrs. T. Lowden,		
Mr. & Mrs. L. Lawton,		
Mr. & Mrs. T. Leach		
Mr. & Mrs. W. McGorrell		
Mr. & Mrs. D. Dingwall,		
Mr. & Mrs. A. Vickers		
Mr. J.S. McGrath,	(LAUNCH ONLY)	
Mrs. M. Wakinshaw	(LAUNCH ONLY)	
		Clark-Hawthorn.
		Guests of DBK
		" " "
		British Shipbuilders,
		Mayor & Mayoress of Sunderland.
		Conservative Party Agent, Newcastle.
		British Shipbuilders, Greece.
		Ship Construction Manager, Southwick.
		Senior Estimator (Engineering)
		Ship Manager.
		Chief Draughtsman (Hull)
		Personnel Services Manager.
		Foreman Welder, Southwick.
		Foreman Plumber, Southwick.
		Foreman Caulker/Burner, Southwick.
		Foreman Rigger, Southwick.
		Drawing Office Shop Stwd, Southwick.
		Ass. to Company Secretary.
		Ch'man S'land Area Health Authority
		Nursing Officer, Monkwearmouth Hospit