



FILE

My Travels Abroad
PM
copied to
S. Korea March 1982
PM's visit to S. Korea

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FAR EAST

I regret that it has not been possible to reply before now to your two letters of 5 April. The Prime Minister has now seen these as well as the minute of 30 March from the Secretary of State for Trade.

Mrs Thatcher is content to visit Japan before China and is also content with the outline programme. As far as China is concerned, she does not wish to take up your alternative suggestion of visiting a more scenic area than the neighbourhood of Peking since this would mean cutting out Shanghai where, as you know, she may wish to launch a ship.

The Prime Minister has considered the arguments relating to the possible inclusion of Korea in her Far Eastern visit but has decided that she does not wish to visit Korea on this occasion. I think that she would be prepared to send to President Chun a message of the kind you propose and would be grateful if you would let me have a draft.

6/1
answered
in S. Korea
file

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

ALL COPIES

John Holmes, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Could you also let me have
your decision on Korea (last
Jan.)?

A. J. C. $\frac{23}{4}$

Rever
mt

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PRIME MINISTER

Your Visit to the Far East

I have delayed consulting you about the attached letters but you may now have time to deal with them.

Order of Visits

You wanted to visit China before Japan. This possibility has been examined but there are substantial difficulties. The Japanese (see first letter attached) cannot receive you after 24 September. The Chinese have another "high level" State visit which lasts until 20 September.

Agree, therefore, to go to Japan first (from about 17 - 21 September). Then China (from about 22 - 25 September)?

Outline Programme

The revised programme at Flag A takes account of your wish to see something of rural life in China. There would be a day's visiting outside Peking. The FCO offer the alternative of a visit to a more scenic area but this might mean cutting out Shanghai and you will probably wish to preserve this event because of Y.K. Pao's interest in your launching a ship there.

Are you generally content with the outline programme?

Korea

In a letter of 30 March Mr. Biffen suggested that you should include Korea in your programme. The arguments for doing so would be largely commercial though a visit to one of the most successful of the newly industrialising countries would have an interest in itself. The arguments against including Korea are that it will add

/ to the strain

to the strain of what is already a long visit and will involve some compression of your programme in Japan and China.

Do you want to include Korea?

If you decide not to go, the Foreign Office suggest that you send the President a personal invitation to visit the UK next year.

Agree?

A. J. C.

22 April 1982