

Sally

MR RYDER

cc:- Mr Ingham  
Miss Parsons  
Superintendent Cawthorne

The Prime Minister has agreed the draft programme for her 23 May visit to the North East, which I circulated last week. Her only comment has been to stress the need for plenty of time at Austin & Pickersgill.

Looking again at the draft, it seems to me that 45 minutes may be too short for the Nursery Factories at Sunderland. I suggest, therefore, that we should plan an 0800 hrs departure from the hotel, 0845 - 1000 for Austin & Pickersgill, and 1015 - 1115 at the Nursery Factories. If we get ahead of the programme, we will soon fill up the available time during the walk about and press session.

I suggest that Mr Ingham and Mr Howe should get in touch about press arrangements and about how these should be dovetailed with the walk about.

It would also be helpful if Superintendent Cawthorne could be put in contact with the appropriate member of your Regional Agent's staff so that they can be involved together in arrangements for the walk about.

In view of Austin & Pickersgill's position within a nationalised corporation, I would like to make formal arrangements for that part of the programme through the Department of Industry. The Regional Agent would then be responsible for the details of arrangements at the Nursery Factories and at Sunderland market place, with the assistance of Messrs Ingham and Howe in respect of press arrangements. I will be confirming arrangements with the British Gas Corporation direct for the programme between 1230 - 1730 and the Regional Agent will, of course, deal with the party in Newcastle.

Subject to any further comments you may have, I shall set in hand these arrangements, to the extent to which they fall to the Civil Service side, on Wednesday, 27 February.

MAD

25 February 1980

NORTH EAST VISIT: THURSDAY 22/FRIDAY 23 MAY

Thursday 22 May

1630 Leave London for Northolt  
1730 Leave Northolt by air for Durham  
1830 Arrive Durham  
Call at Royal County Hotel  
Depart for Three Tons Hotel, Durham for  
Reception for Party workers from Durham, Durham NW,  
Cleveland, Sunderland North and South  
Later Overnight stay including private dinner at  
Royal County Hotel, Durham

Friday 23 May

0800 Depart Royal County Hotel  
0845 Arrive Austin Pickersgill, Shipbuilders, Wearside  
1010 Depart  
1016 - Arrive Nursery Factories, St. Luke's Road, Sunderland  
(Small businesses, employing 104 people in all  
with local authority support)  
Work includes printing, sports wear, joinery  
manufacturer, upholstery, general engineering,  
ladies clothing, double glazing, fitted furniture, etc.  
1115 Depart for Sunderland market place  
1130 Walk about  
1200 Time for meeting with press if required  
1230 Drive to British Gas Corporation's Engineering  
Research Station at Killingworth  
1330 Arrive ERS  
Briefing over light lunch  
1425- Tour of ERS  
1525  
1525 Leave for British Gas Corporation on-line inspection  
centre at Cramlington  
1545 Arrive Cramlington  
Tour of on-line inspection centre  
1645 Drive to Newcastle  
1730 Reception for Party workers from Newcastle  
constituencies at Gosforth Park Hotel, Newcastle  
1900 Leave for Newcastle airport  
1930 Fly to Northolt

MIKE PATTISON

Prime Minister's Visit to the North East

Thursday evening 22nd - Friday 23rd May 1980

1. We would like to get the Prime Minister to Durham as early as possible on the evening of Thursday 22nd May. There is a good Hotel there and we would like to hold a meeting for Party workers.

Durham also has the advantage of being relatively near Sunderland.

2. Our people in the North East are looking into the Friday morning programme between 8.30 and 12.00 which is their responsibility.

They are keen on a visit to a Shipyard in Sunderland, either Austin and Pickersgill Ltd or Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd, and believe that this could be undertaken between 8.30 am and 10.00 leaving them two hours to choose a couple of other engagements in Sunderland before handing the Prime Minister over at midday.

3. The Prime Minister has already visited NEI in the summer of 1975 and what with the recent death of Sir James Woodeson and the Duke of Kent's forthcoming visit, perhaps this option could be discounted.
4. Our people in the North East are very keen on the Department of Industry's idea that the Prime Minister should consider visiting Victor Products (Wallsend) Ltd (industrial lighting and mining equipment) whose Chairman and Managing Director is currently Chairman of the CBI Northern Regional Council.
5. The point has also been made that Tyneside effectively comes to a halt at 4 pm on Friday afternoons so any industrial/quasi-industrial visit after that hour is not really on the cards.
6. Before flying back from Newcastle airport to Northolt our people in the North East would like to hold another meeting for party workers near the airport.

Finally I will be in touch with you again next week about the precise recommendations made by our regional office.

Richard Ryder

25.1.80.