

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

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No. 10. Office.
cc Private Secretaries
Press Secretary
Political Secretary
Mr. Wolfson
Mr. Whitmore
Mr. Gow

Prime Minister's Speeches

The Prime Minister considered her programme of future speeches this morning. Two general points were made at the outset:

(a) Her diary should not be overloaded with major speeches: one a month would be probably as much as could be accommodated bearing in mind that major points that she wished to get across on particular issues could probably be got across twice a week in the House of Commons.

(b) It was essential that when Ministers submitted material for her consideration for speeches (and for replies to letters from Members of Parliament, as well as for briefing for important occasions including Parliamentary Questions) the Cabinet Minister concerned should personally take responsibility for the content, tone and style of what was submitted.

Subject to these two considerations, the following conclusions were reached about forthcoming speeches.

President Moi of Kenya (Wednesday 13 June) - this should be a speech of about seven minutes covering appropriate issues for a visiting Head of an African State. Mr. Cartledge to be responsible. Briefing to be commissioned from the FCO.

National Executive Committee (Wednesday 13 June) - this would be wholly political: Mr. Wolfson would be responsible for preparing it.

President Turbay of Colombia (Tuesday 3 July) - the Prime Minister doubted whether there was enough substance in our relations with Colombia to warrant an on-the-record speech with a press handout, but she would be grateful if Mr. Cartledge would get the Foreign Secretary's views on this, and on the content of a speech in whatever proved to be the appropriate mode.

/ CPC Summer School

CPC Summer School, Cambridge (Friday 6 July) - this would be an important lecture lasting the better part of an hour and would need careful preparation at least three weeks in advance. It would be the Prime Minister's first major political speech after the budget and would need to combine Conservative philosophy on central issues with an exposition of the central strategy as initiated in the budget. Mr. Wolfson would take charge of the preparation of the speech, convening a meeting with Hugh Thomas, John Nott and John Biffen. Mr. Lankester should however commission from the Treasury briefing on the economic and budgetary strategy to be woven into the speech.

Lunch for the 1922 Committee (Wednesday 18 July) - this would be largely personal but the Prime Minister would need to talk about the political and Parliamentary situation and Mr. Sanders, who should take responsibility for this speech, should prepare briefing for her on the Parliamentary prospectus, with particular reference to the future legislation and industrial relations.

Birmingham Press Club Awards (Friday 20 July) - the Prime Minister would like to make "the new technology" a central theme in this speech alongside the philosophical issue of freedom and responsibility of the press. These two themes would bring in e.g. the Times, NGA and SLADE and would also embrace discussion of the impact of semi-conductors and micro-processors on industry, with particular reference to the interests of the trade unions. Briefing should be commissioned from the Department of Trade and of Employment. Mr. Lankester should take charge.

The Prime Minister went on to say that she would like to include in her programme of industrial visits (on/which we ^{the preparation of} must make rapid progress) visits to areas of new technology where the UK is leading the world and/or establishing a viable business internationally as shown by our exports: avionics is an example. And she would like to focus on small firms in these fields.

We also touched on whether the Prime Minister would be looking for a further major speech in Parliament before the Recess and she concluded that she would not. Having regard to the lateness of the Finance Bill and her desire that Parliament should rise on Wednesday 25 July there would be neither time nor occasion for her to make a major economic speech and she would like business arranged accordingly. Mrs. Sanders to inform the Chief Whip please.

4 June 1979

KRS.