

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Howe

YOUR VISIT TO MID WALES : PRESS ARRANGEMENTS ETC

You are visiting Mid Wales on Friday, 2 July. The tour and press arrangements are as follows:

1. The day is a full one with five separate visits as well as two Party functions, and some travelling between engagements. Time will therefore be of the essence.
2. Your day begins at Welshpool High School. Established in 1964 by the amalgamation of grammar and secondary schools, it has developed into a comprehensive school of 1,200 pupils taken from a catchment area of rich and attractive farming country. Academic results are above average, particularly at 'O' level, and the school is noted for sound teaching, parental support and community involvement. The school has produced a succession of young musicians for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and is also noted for soccer, counting several international caps among its pupils. The layout is rather rambling - typical of a school that has been added to over the years - and I have arranged for the press to be guided to fixed photo opportunities rather than crowd around you throughout. You should be aware of the following:

- On arrival you will be met by Mr E V Harper (Headmaster), Mr R Bevan (Director of Education, Powys), Mr R Chadwick (Chairman of Governors), and teachers. You will also meet the Headboy, Roger Williams, and the Headgirl, Cheryl Harper - the Headmaster's daughter, elected to office (press photo).

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- From the entrance hall (where the introductions will be made if wet) you pass through the domestic science teaching area and past the dressmaking class through a series of doors before crossing a small courtyard to the school's main hall - used intensively by the community as well as the school.
- Dinner ladies will be gathered in the hall to say hello to you (press photo).
- Again going outside through a covered walkway you will visit a class of 15 year olds working with a pair of micro-computers as part of an 'O' level course. The school has had computers for seven years. The children will talk to you about their work (press photo).
- From here you go through a corridor and outside again to the music room where you will meet two final year music students - Martin Evans (piano) who is a Young Musician of the Year Finalist, and Andrew Ford (trombone) who hopes to be selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales this year. The school had four players in last year's orchestra. The boys will play for you for a few minutes (press photo).
- Now in the newest part of the school, you will go through several more doors to a small theatre/studio with excellent facilities. Here you will watch part of a rehearsal for "Tom Sawyer" to be staged shortly by 12-13 year olds. (Press photographers will be positioned on a raised gallery.)

- From here you go out of the building again through double doors and into the technical block. Apart from standard metalwork/benchwork the 4th years who use this facility will show you a car they rebuilt recently for grasstrack racing and another car used for their mechanical course (press photo).

- You then walk some distance outside to another building and upstairs to the Physics Laboratory where you will be shown examples of sixth formers' Nuffield Physics Investigation project work which constitutes part of an 'A' level physics course. These include measuring the rate of flow of liquids, sound attenuation effects using smoke, and the capabilities of a string telephone (press photo).

- You then pass down a corridor and a staircase to find much of the school assembled on the playing field to say goodbye.

3. Next stop is the Tootal Menswear ties and handkerchiefs factory at Newtown. The company moved to this new factory in 1979 having already been in Newtown for ten years. The factory is rented from the Development Board for Rural Wales, though the company may soon buy it. Some 5,000 dozen ties and 6,000 dozen handkerchiefs are produced every week and sent to Manchester for distribution. The company employs 200 (80% female), with some seasonal adjustment (at present they have ten vacancies they cannot fill). Machinery in the factory is rather old and the processes labour intensive. The operation of a piecework system appears to produce efficiency and productivity, however. Barely 50% are union members and it is

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thought most of these joined their own specialist union in order to fend off advances from the TGWU.

- You will be met on arrival by Mr M Field (Managing Director, Manchester), Mr N Horsby (Chairman, Clothing Director, Manchester), Mr D M Selby (General Manager, Newtown) and other managers (press photo).
- From the entrance hall you will be led straight on to the factory floor where you will first come across a handkerchief initialling machine. This 30-year-old machine has one operator and can put the same initial on 26 handkerchiefs at once, giving a hand embroidery effect. The machine will be rigged with blue handkerchiefs and the letter 'M' and you may well be asked to turn the handle (press photo).
- From here the party crosses the factory floor to an open-step metal staircase and up on to the handkerchief-making floor. Here you will see hand sewing-machines hem stitching, and handkerchiefs being cut from 150 metre lengths.
- You then return down the metal steps to a roller ironing machine. The company have it in mind that you and Mr Thatcher will operate this machine briefly (press photo).
- At this point the floor is particularly slippery - fabric dust tends to act as a natural polish.
- The tour then moves to the tie making area where you will be shown ties being cut to shape (despite the odd

shape the company manages by judicious cutting to use 96% of the cloth brought in), the nylon lining being inserted and the tie folded and pressed. During your visit they will be making Queen's Award to Industry ties (press photo, including a company photographer who will accompany throughout).

- Back in the entrance hall at the end of the visit the company will make presentations (ties and handkerchiefs).

4. On the other side of Newtown is the Dr Dafydd Richards Training Centre. Named after a former Montgomeryshire Medical Officer, whose brainchild it was, this is the next stop on your tour. A training and social education establishment for the mentally handicapped, the centre was opened in 1970 after a pilot scheme had proved the feasibility of such a facility in a sparsely populated area. It provides day care and training for 77 mentally handicapped adults (in an age range from 16 to 67 at present) and puts the emphasis on numeracy and literacy, social training and work training, helping them to become less dependent and lead a fuller life. The centre is run by Powys Social Services Department.

- I raised the question of the presence of press photographers during this part of the tour and I am assured that the centre is used to photographers and will be making a video film as a record of your visit. So they have no objection.
- All those you meet will be able to respond to your questions - even if only in a limited way.
- You will be met on arrival by Mr K Morris, the Centre's Principal (press photo). You have apparently met Mr Morris

before - 20 years ago when you visited a Special School for the Mentally Handicapped in Flower Lane, Mill Hill, where he was a teacher.

- Mr Morris will take you round the building to the entrance hall where he will introduce you to Councillor I Jones (Deputy Chairman, Social Services Committee) and Councillor Mrs M Alford (Chairman of the Centre's Managing Body).
- Your tour of the centre will begin in the activities room where such things as cooking, bedmaking and table-setting are taught, through the dining room being prepared for lunch and out into a garden area which will contain a display of work, handicrafts etc. It is worth noting that the centre has a good record in placing people in work.
- Outside, in a separate building, you will visit the small workshop where a group of young men produce, under supervision, a series of articles which are sold commercially - nesting/bird boxes, plant boxes, toys, wrought ironwork etc. (press photo).
- Returning to the main building through the dining room you will pass through the kitchen where lunch will be progressing and then out, down a step, and immediately into the building again, up a step.
- This takes you into an area specially set aside for the more elderly. Here they print all the Social Services Department letter headings, etc. You will be shown a display of printing work and handicrafts and, in an

adjacent room, an example of work carried out for local factories as well as other, educational, activities (press photo).

- From here you go to a room which doubles as a classroom - for those who would benefit from straightforward school-work - and a theatre. The centre puts on music and drama shows, some photos of which you will have seen in the entrance hall.

- At the end of the tour you will be presented with a wooden cornerpiece - basically a corner stand for plants or ornaments - made in the workshop. It stands 3 feet high (press photo).

- It is expected that most of those attending the centre will come out to wave goodbye.

5. The lunch for Party workers at the Elephant and Castle, Newtown, is private except for the usual local photographers.

6. Your first call in the afternoon is at Knighton Hospital. Knighton is somewhat isolated and therefore of special importance to its surrounding community. This hospital, with its 20 beds, is one of the smallest in Wales and is the subject of great pride in the community. In 1967 it was planned to close the hospital, but there was such support for it locally and such an effort to counter the closure proposals that in 1972 it was reprieved. The hospital has since been developed and the spirit of local enterprise that saved it has now raised £30,000 for a new physiotherapy unit which opened six weeks ago. The hospital has 13 geriatric beds, five general practitioner beds, and two maternity beds. The latest

money raising scheme, just started, will permit the purchase of a sonic foetal scanner for the maternity unit which delivered 62 babies last year. As might be expected in a hospital with this background in this kind of community, when asked about possible demonstrations during your visit in the context of the current NHS dispute, the Matron expressed some shock at the question. Nobody has ever gone on strike there and although there are some NUPE members no problems are anticipated on the day of your visit. No demonstrators are expected to travel to Knighton from elsewhere, but we should regard this as at least a possibility.

- You will be met by Mrs E M Hamar, the Matron, and by Dr B C Davies, one of the GPs who act as clinical assistants at the Hospital, as well as representatives of the league of friends and the Area Health Authority. One of the latter is the current President of the Royal College of Nursing, Mrs Marian Morgan.
- Your tour of the Hospital will begin in the maternity area, where it is hoped there will be a mother and newly delivered baby on the day (press photo).
- Next you will see the sitting/day room from which there is a magnificent view of the town and Offa's Dyke, which runs close by.
- You will then visit the long stay and GP patients before returning past the entrance hall to the newly built and just opened physiotherapy unit where you will meet some of the patients (press photo). You then depart for the next part of the tour.

7. A few minutes drive from the Hospital is Cwm Whitton Farm, also close to the line of Offa's Dyke and farmed by Mr Verney Pugh and his son Colin. This is a good example of the use made of less favoured area assistance for maintaining upland farming. Mr Pugh has made a speciality of suckled cows and has been for many years Chairman of the Brecon and Radnor Suckled Calf Society. Mr Pugh's father rented (1914) and later purchased (1923) the farm. Mr Pugh started in partnership with his father, as his own son has now done, and has purchased more land to bring the farm up to 500 acres. There has been considerable development, including roads, silage pits, buildings and machinery. There are 132 cows and 800 ewes - 1,100 lambs this season has been a record. There are also seed potatoes, and barley for feed.

You will not be the first Prime Minister to visit Cwm Whitton. Lloyd George visited in 1912 when the farm was owned by Sir Francis Edwards, then the local MP.

You first met Mr Pugh when you attended the Aberystwyth Show in 1977.

- Your visit will start at the farm, where you will meet Mr and Mrs Verney Pugh as well as Colin Pugh (press photo).
- You will then be taken by Range Rover on a tour. This will involve travelling back down the road that runs through the farm, through the seed potato field, past the bunker silage facility and the barley, before making a stop at a high point where Mr Pugh can show you the farm at a glance (most of the farm is above 1,000 feet).
- You will return to the farm centre and see the silage pit and a new stock building under construction (press photo).

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- You will also meet Ben Rogers, a shepherd who worked on the farm for 32 years. He will be awarded a long service medal at the Royal Welsh Show later in July for 45 years farm work (press photo).

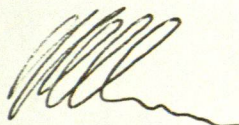
8. The Tea/Reception for Party workers at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, is private except for the usual local photographers.

9. The Press, radio and TV will hope as usual for a word with you during the day, and clearly there are many potential opportunities.

At the end of the first, Welshpool School, visit would be the obvious moment to give a few words on any burning issue that is running on the day. This would obviate the risk of being pestered too much later on. Content to decide this on an impromptu basis at the time, depending on events and demand?

10. Content with the tour programme and press arrangements, including photography at the Dr Dafydd Richards Training Centre?

11. I attach a relevant Written Answer from Mr Wyn Roberts of the 28 June.



HUGH COLVER
Press Office

28 June 1982