

PRIME MINISTER

c.c. Mr. Whitmore  
Mr. Gow,  
Supt. Cawthorne  
Sir Robert Armstrong  
High Commissioner

PRESS CONFERENCE

1. Essential Information.

I have arranged for you to give an on the record press conference to correspondents representing British papers at 4 p.m. tomorrow. By that time the Commonwealth Chairman should have held his press conference on the Communique. This timing is also right for BBC radio and IRN early morning news magazine programmes - e.g. "Today".

2. The press conference will take place in my conference room at the Southern Cross Hotel. Afterwards I suggest you move through a connecting door to my room to record short news interviews for BBC home and overseas radio and IRN. BBC TV and ITN interviews will be recorded in a separate room on the same floor after radio. I have asked TV ~~not~~ to film the press conference because of the heat that would be generated in a small room; they have agreed.

3. There is a contingent of 27 British journalists still with us. The list is attached as Annex I. Could I draw particular attention to David Chipp, Editor in Chief, PA. You might go out of your way to say "Hello" as he is the senior journalist present - he is here primarily for the Commonwealth Press Union.

4. I know you have little time for the Guardian or Observer but all my evidence this week is that Patrick Keatley (Guardian) and Colin Legum (Observer) have, whatever their political commitment, been among the more balanced reporters. Of course, they love the Commonwealth and like to see it functioning quietly and not rowing.

5. The most abrasive questioners are likely to be John Dickie (Daily Mail); David Adamson (Telegraph) and John Ellison (Express).

Objective

6. I think your objectives ought to be:



- present yourself in the most positive and constructive light vis a vis the Commonwealth; (journalists are contrasting your lack of bilaterals with Lord Carrington's intensive round of discussions and they report others saying that you did not appear to seek other Heads of Government out or be sought out yourself at the retreat);
- demonstrate your continuing commitment to the Commonwealth (especially after Mr. Muldoon's rough words);
- emphasise your positive approach to Cancun; (I have sought at every opportunity to get over our good aid record on the lines of Annex II).
- separate out and leave to the end domestic issues which are covered in Annexes IV-VII, plus material being sent to you separately by Mr Whitmore.

#### Approach

1. I am more and more convinced that it would be better at your press conferences for me to introduce you and choose the order of questioners. This gives you more time to think and concentrate on the Q and A rather than with running the meeting. Moreover, there are advantages on occasions in my (rather than your) filtering out 'undesirables'.

8. I suggest we adopt this practice on this occasion so that I can take responsibility (and not you) for arranging first to handle CHOGM issues and to delegate and squeeze to the end domestic matters. I do not want you to be felt to be running away from domestic points, taking account of the Institute of Directors' lunch, your refusal to comment on the end of the hunger strike and your generally low profile in Australia (compared, e.g. with Messrs. Muldoon, Trudeau and Fraser).

/ Opening Comments



Opening Comments

9. If your objectives (set out in para 6) are to be fulfilled, I think it important that you set out your views of CHOGM, your commitment to the Commonwealth and your positive approach to Cancun in a short opening statement (Annex III).

Areas of Questioning

10. Annex IV sets out the line of areas of both CHOGM and domestic questions with draft answers.

Timing

11. I suggest you allow me to wind up the conference at the latest by 4.45 (and preferably nearer 4.30). It is important we do not run on because of radio deadlines.

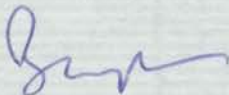
Pre-Conference briefing

12. I suggest we have a pre-press conference briefing of, say, 15 minutes and run through the format and likely questions.

Follow-up

13. I shall produce additional briefing tonight and tomorrow in the light of events/ developments.

Content?



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Michael Brunson	ITN
David Allan Chipp	Press Assoc
John Dickie	Daily Mail
John Ellison	Daily Express
Bob Friend	BBC
David Peter Adamson	Daily Telegraph
Keith Graves	BBC TV
Peter John Griffiths	Reuters
Derek Ingram	Gemini News Service
Patrick Keatley	Guardian
Colin Legum	The Observer
Denis Martin	Daily Mirror
Molly Mortimer	Encyc Britannia
Alexander MacLeod	Scotsman
David McNeil	BBC Radio
Patricia Newby	Financial Times
Michael Popham	BBC Ext Service
David Lionel Rose	ITN
William Russell	Glasgow Herald
David Tonge	Financial Times
Andrew Walker	BBC Ext Service
David Watts	Times
Sidney Weiland	Reuters
Celia Curtis	Commonwealth
Robert Milliken	Sunday Times
Harold Abrahams	IRN



AID POINTS

We are proud of our record on aid. We are proud of its quantity, its quality and the direction in which it goes. The amount we have set aside for spending in the current financial year exceeds L.1,000 million. The grant element in our aid is 95%. 62% of our bilateral aid goes to the poorest countries; and 75% goes to the Commonwealth.

We are also proud of our record on private lending and investment. Private flows from the United Kingdom to the developing countries amounted to L.4.8 billion in 1980.

Of this total, L.2.8 billion was recycled money; but L.2 billion was fresh lending and investment. When aid is added in, the resource transfer to the developing countries amounted to 2.46% of GNP (far above the United Nations target of 1%).

In 1979 Britain alone provided more aid to the developing world than the entire Soviet bloc - over pounds two billion compared with pounds 1.86 billion.

6 October, 1981



DRAFT OPENING REMARKS

- A good, serious, constructive workmanlike CHOGM where freed of newsy Rhodesia-type problems, we have been able to meet, talk and debate in a relaxed way.
- Superbly organised by Australia - many congratulations to Malcolm Fraser.
- Accept that CHOGM not a great hit with press because no burning issue has arisen; several birds which you had seen rising - Namibia, Gleneagles - not flown.
- This underlines my point; a serious CHOGM principally concerned, as we forecast, with economic situation in world brought on or exacerbated by the two huge oil price increase in the 70's.
- A valuable rehearsal for CANCUN which will be attended by 7 members of the Commonwealth.
- The approach to CANCUN exactly same as at CHOGM, positive but realistic; limits to what we can achieve, great harm done if expectations over-excited.
- absolute need for world to conquer inflation as only means of establishing secure base for wealth creation which is in all our interests.
- unity of interests between developed, developing and poorest nations.
- These points ventilated in my public speeches and contributions to debate.
- As extension of this, wherever I go I seek to advance British commercial/trading interests. I did it on my way here in the Middle East. I did it here at CHOGM, and will do so among other things on my way back to Pakistan.

/Say this,



- Say this, because CHOGM group of 42 participating countries, offers huge opportunities for trade - UK exports 30% of what it produces and imports 30% of what it consumes; Singapore 70% both ways. It is in our UK interest to have a healthy, growing, developing Commonwealth and that is the interest - the common interest - I have been pursuing.
- Boring it may be in media terms. Absolutely vital however to our people back home - and to the billions - one quarter of the world's population represented here at CHOGM.
- I leave Melbourne this evening feeling that a job has been well done for Britain and Commonwealth - a job done mostly behind the scenes but a job done in the common Commonwealth interest, which brings us back to the unity of economic interest which has, I think, characterised this CHOGM.

6 October, 1981

CANADIAN PATRIATION

Your account of your meeting with Mr Trudeau is below, plus a background briefing line which I prepared for Press Office. I am sure the press will quiz you on this. Their main concern will be to establish the likely strength of opposition in the House (we can't comment, assuming we would want to, until we know what the Canadians are proposing); the timetable; the likely prospects for success.

They will also enquire whether you accept Mr Trudeau's point of view set out in the agreed account of the meeting and what has persuaded you at this stage to agree to try to get any resolution and bill adopted by the Canadian Parliament through Westminster.



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Trudeau met this afternoon to take stock of the position, following the ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada on the Canadian Government's proposals for amendments to the constitution of Canada.

Mr Trudeau indicated that on his return to Canada he would be consulting his colleagues in the Federal Government and the spokesman for the provincial premiers. Subject to the outcome of these consultations, his Government would invite the Canadian Parliament to approve a resolution and draft Bill - basically the measure which is before Parliament now, subject to the possibility of modifications in the light of those consultations. If the resolution and draft Bill were approved by the Canadian Parliament, they would then be sent to The Queen, so that the Bill could be presented for enactment by the British Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher confirmed that, following the ruling by the Supreme Court on the legality of what was proposed, the British Government would introduce

at Westminster the legislation duly requested and approved by the Canadian Parliament. She said that Mr Trudeau would know that some Members of Parliament at Westminster were concerned at the proposal that they should be asked to approve a measure affecting Federal - provincial relations which did not have the approval of a substantial number of the provincial Governments. That concern would be strengthened, by the Supreme Court's ruling that it was not in accordance with constitutional convention that such a measure should be enacted without provincial consent, even though it left undefined the measure of consent required .

Mr Trudeau said that the Supreme Court's ruling made it clear that the question of provincial consent was a matter of conventional but not of legal requirement. The constitutional convention in question was a political matter, and a convention of Canadian politics. He hoped that the Members of the British Parliament concerned would recognise that it was for Canadian politicians to decide whether the convention should be modified or overridden on this occasion; it was they, and not British politicians, who would bear responsibility for their decision.



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Trudeau also discussed the possible timetable for handling these matters. Mrs Thatcher said that any measure approved by the Canadian Parliament could not now be introduced at Westminster until the new Session of Parliament. Mr Trudeau accepted this, and also accepted that it would be for the British Government to decide upon the timing of the introduction and passage of any such measure in Parliament, having regard to its own legislative priorities and the other demands upon Parliamentary time.

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Trudeau agreed that they should remain in touch in these matters, and review the position once Mr Trudeau's consultations in Canada were completed.

5 October 1981



UNATTRIBUTABLE BRIEFING FOR PRESS OFFICERS ON CANADIAN PATRIATION

Mrs Thatcher met Mr Trudeau at the home of HM Consul-General in Toorak immediately after Mrs Thatcher's lunch for representatives of 19 Commonwealth countries which Mr Trudeau attended. The meeting lasted about 25 minutes.

There was no disagreement and the agreed line for the press sets out clearly the position reached in today's discussions.

In essence this is that the ball is now in the Canadian court. As and when the Canadian Parliament has approved the resolution and draft bill and sent them to the Queen the bill could be presented to the British Parliament.

The British Government will then be in the driving seat and, as Mrs Thatcher confirmed today, the legislation duly requested and approved by the Canadian Parliament would be introduced at Westminster.

It is accepted that the legislation could not be introduced in the present session of Parliament. A new session starts on 4 November. We cannot anticipate the Queen's speech but it is well known that the legislation from Canada could form part of the next session's legislative programme.

There is no disposition on the part of the British Government to delay the legislation although the timing is entirely a matter for it.

The legislation will, of course, be a Government bill and it follows that the Government will be concerned to secure its passage.



NORTHERN IRELAND

It seems unlikely that Mr Prior will have made his statement on prison reform by the time you have your press conference. You will recall, however, that the press were anxious to get a quote from you about the ending of the hunger strike while you were in Canberra. At the time I said you were awakened to be given the news, and added: " The Prime Minister is delighted that the hunger strike has ended. She has been deeply distressed at the loss of young lives inside and outside the prison."

I <sup>quote</sup> doubt whether the journalists will be greatly interested in a /on the hunger strike, though they may try to get you to sound triumphant and they may be more interested in the subject since they know that a statement on prison reform from Mr Prior is imminent.

Another "Northern Ireland" issue is De Lorean where we have contented ourselves with the following";

"The Government has recently been informed of allegations of financial irregularity in the De Lorean Company. In so far as this may relate to the company's operation in the UK the police are making enquiries."

Our only elaboration has been to say that correspondence from Mr Winterton was passed to you in Melbourne. You got in touch with NIO. The Law Officers were involved and a police enquiry stated. You personally did not order an enquiry.

It was later reported that De Lorean were finding it difficult to raise further credit because of the allegations. NIO consequently put out a further statement with the objective of calming people, making the point that normal procedures were being followed in the circumstances of allegations of financial irregularity.

It will be important to play the whole thing low-key in the absence of any conclusion to the police enquiry.



CHOGM TRIVIA

It is in the nature of conferences which produce little news that people concentrate upon trivia. This has been particularly rich. I suspect that the journalists will pursue the following line questions if given half the chance:

- was your journey really necessary?
- what real value can you put upon CHOGM?
- *Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption.  
@Wayland 9 August 2012*
- is it conceivably sensible to be away from home for all this time with the economy in the state it is?
- did you really take advantage of the occasion to meet with a very wide spectrum of Commonwealth Heads of Government?

There is no doubt that the press is becoming increasingly aware, probably because no great single issue dominates the conference, that the Commonwealth is turning its mind to the purpose, nature and organisation of CHOGM. I have been the particular target of questioning because you are now to believe (like Mr Muldoon) that there are far too many summits around. I would guess there is an even chance that you will be asked how you view the future of CHOGMs and whether they might not be more effectively organised in smaller study groups of countries.