

Prime Minister (1)

Ref. A087/2289

MR POWELL

You will wish to see RTA's recommendation for the 'sharp end' of the delegation. I doubt we need Mr. Reeve: we are all expert on

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 1987 South Africa! Agree?

This minute makes proposals for membership of the British delegation to CHOGM at Vancouver in October. I have discussed these proposals with Sir Patrick Wright.

COP 30/7

2. I attach a list of the Ministers and senior officials who it is proposed should comprise the delegation. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made separate proposals about supporting staff typing, clerical, communications and security.

Yes

3. In making these proposals I have had in mind the following considerations:

1. The local post is a small Consulate General: we can look for only marginal support from there.

2. Vancouver is eight hours behind London; most of the activity in Vancouver will be outside London working hours.

3. The Secretary General is proposing a greater concentration than (for instance) at Nassau on economic issues. It is in our interest to fall in with that, so that less time and attention are concentrated on the problems of Southern Africa.

4. Because the meeting is so much shorter in length than usual, the work of communiqué drafting is to be divided between two "Committees of the Whole", in each of which we shall need to be represented.





4. It is proposed that Sir Patrick Wright should represent us in the "political" Committee of the Whole, and Mr John Caines (Permanent Secretary, Overseas Development Administration) in the "economic" Committee of the Whole. Each will need one supporting official in the Committee, to be an adviser, note-taker and "runner". Sir Patrick Wright would be supported by Mr T T Macan and Mr Caines by Mr T L Richardson. It is also proposed that Mr A Reeve should be included in the delegation, to provide advice and support for discussions on Southern Africa. Mr Macan, Mr Richardson and Mr Reeve will be able to represent the United Kingdom in any ad hoc meetings that may be called, as well as supporting Sir Patrick Wright and Mr Caines in Committees of the Whole.

Why?  
we don't  
need any

5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office proposed to include in the delegation Mr S G Eldon, from the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York. The consideration in favour of this is that Mr Eldon would be an extra pair of hands on Southern Africa, with the special advantage of being able to report from direct experience on discussions in the United Nations General Assembly which will have been running during the preceding period (and will indeed be continuing during and after the CHOGM). I have, however, agreed with Sir Patrick Wright that we can dispense with Mr Eldon's presence at Vancouver, and he is not included in the list.

why?

6. Experience has amply demonstrated the value of having a delegation secretary who is on the spot in the delegation office at all times, can deal at a responsible level with incoming calls from other delegations (and indeed from London) and can act as a focal point and link man for the members of the delegation. It is proposed that the delegation secretary should be Mr C Jonsen.

7. The resulting delegation is the same size as that which went to CHOGM in New Delhi in 1983 and one larger than the



delegation to CHOGM at Nassau in 1985; I think that it is inevitable that it should be so, given the decision to split the "Committee of the Whole" into two: the meeting is shorter than its two predecessors but is likely to be more intense as people pack into five days the business which at earlier meetings has been spread over eight or nine.

8. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

29 July 1987

CHOGM Vancouver 1987

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Proposed British Delegation

Prime Minister

Mr N L Wicks )  
Mr C D Powell)

Private Secretaries

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

Mr A C Galsworthy)  
Mr R Culshaw )

Private Secretaries

Sir Robert Armstrong

Sir Patrick Wright

Mr John Caines

Mr T T Macan

Mr T L Richardson

? Mr A Reeve

Mr C Jonsen

Mr Bernard Ingham

Mr Christopher Meyer

Mr. Michael Horne.

Spokesmen

(To marshal the press)