

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO JAMAICA: SPEECH

I have had a go at your speech at the lunch in your honour in Jamaica. It has to be quite short because the whole programme is very compressed and the time available for lunch is no exception. The speech will be televised.

I have tried to make the speech generally helpful and supportive of Seaga. You asked us to find out whether there were any particular points he would like you to cover. The attached telegram from Kingston suggests that references to his proposals on international debt (which, on first analysis, we cannot accept) and to South Africa would be desirable. I have included passages on both topics.

You will also see that I have made references to Jamaican reggae music and modern Jamaican poetry, with which you may well not be entirely familiar! But the Jamaicans are very proud of them and a reference in the speech could go down very well. I attach the words from Bob Marley's "Get up, stand up" song so you can see an example; also Braithwaite's poem about cricket to which the speech refers.

I am sending the speech to the Foreign Office for comments. Their own version was unusable. We may need to make some amendments subsequently.

C.D.R.

Charles Powell
11 July 1987

STZAG.

1

Prime Minister's Speech

at

Lunch

given by

the Prime Minister of Jamaica

in

Kingston

on

Saturday 18 July

Prime Minister, Ministers, Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I first thank you very warmly indeed for
inviting me to visit Jamaica in this 25th
Anniversary year of your independence, and
for making me so welcome with the
hospitality for which Jamaica is

renowned.

It has, sadly, to be a short visit.

Even so I have this morning seen something
both of your history and of your more
recent achievements.

I have been very impressed and
congratulate you, Prime Minister, and all
Jamaicans for what you have built during
those 25 years.

When Christopher Columbus first came here nearly five hundred years ago, he immediately called it "the fairest isle that eyes have beheld".

I came by a rather different route but I reach just the same conclusion now.



Prime Minister, I am not giving away any secrets if I say that people in Britain have always had a particularly soft spot

~~for Jamaica and for Jamaicans.~~

Moreover, Your natural courtesy, friendliness and cheerfulness make others warm immediately to you.

The deep Christian commitment of Jamaicans
 is admired and indeed envied.

Our recently retired High Commissioner wrote when he left Kingston that he and his wife had come across more thoroughly good people in Jamaica than anywhere else

they had served.

You cannot receive a finer tribute than
that.

But then Jamaica has become very much a part of
our life in Britain.

I don't mean just the music of Bob Marley.
For someone of my generation its perhaps
more truthful to say that I see why others
find it so stimulating - although no-one

can fail to be moved by the message of a song like "Get up, stand up" with its call to people to believe in their own dignity *and in their own effort.*

And your poets have had a remarkable influence too: Edward Braithwaite showed in 'Rites' that not only can West Indians play the best cricket in the world they can also write the best poems about it.

But the contribution which Jamaicans have made
to Britain goes much wider than that.

The many tens of thousands who came to us
in the 1950s and 1960s have become a
valuable and respected part of our
society.

They are ever more strongly represented in
the professions and the public service,
particularly as magistrates and in local
government - even if they are sometimes

just a shade controversial in the latter.

We ~~are~~ proud of them and thank them all.

Prime Minister, you and I must be two of the

heads of government in office today with

the longest continuous service in office

today.

Our experience has many parallels.

We have both had to confront very

difficult economic problems and we have

tackled them in similar ways.

We both believe in strong government, in sound financial management, in overcoming inflation, and in promoting enterprise as the best way to create jobs.

Jamaica has not had an easy time in recent years.

Many of the problems with which you have

had to deal came about through no fault of
Jamaica's.

But thanks to your outstanding skill and
determination, the future now looks much
better.

That is a tribute to the way in which you
have stuck consistently to the policies
which you know to be right.

I believe that if you explain frankly to

Jim

people why ~~tough~~ measures are needed, then
they will give you their support because
they can see that in the long run this is
the only way to the better life for
themselves and their families which is
what they want.

That has been our experience in Britain and we
are now seeing the results.

I am delighted to see that Jamaica's

performance is also now improving markedly, thanks to your leadership.

It is because of our confidence in Jamaica's future, Prime Minister, that I am glad to announce today the British Government's decision to make available a further loan of £5 million over two years, as an indication of our desire to help and support what you are doing.

When you came to Britain in 1984, we had a long talk and you told me then that, more than anything, you wanted to improve the lot of children, and that year would be the first in which every child attending school in Jamaica would get a full set of text books.

I remember thinking at the time what a very sensible and far-seeing aim that was.

Education of our children is vital to our future prosperity and success.

I understand, Prime Minister, that you have it in mind to use our loan for a textbook

~~free~~ rental scheme for Jamaica's schools.

That is a characteristically imaginative proposal and one which would bring real benefits to the children and young people of Jamaica.

If the details can be satisfactorily agreed, it will have our full support.

While we are on the subject of the help which Britain can give Jamaica, can I also say that we shall continue to fight hard in the European Community - and we have quite a bit of experience of fighting in that organisation - to make sure that Jamaica and other Caribbean countries go on

enjoying the advantages of the
preferential arrangements for sugar and
bananas under the Lomé Convention.

I know how important that is to you.

Prime Minister, you and I will meet again in a
few months' time at the Commonwealth Heads
of Government Meeting in Vancouver.

Our last session, in the Bahamas, was

dominated by the single issue of South

Africa.

It is of course a vitally important issue.

Apartheid is an utterly repulsive and

detestable system and it must go.

There has to be fundamental change in

South Africa.

But it must come about by dialogue, not

violence.

Comprehensive trade and economic sanctions

would only entrench apartheid and increase
the risk of bloodshed without bringing a
settlement any nearer.

I have never understood what is moral
about sanctions when they would cost the
jobs and livelihood of black people, who
are those most urgently in need of help.

That is why, rather than punishing them
with sanctions, we are devoting some
£ million to assistance to black South

Africans and have contributed a further £ million to development of the neighbouring front line states.

We must also continue to work for the suspension of violence and the opening of a dialogue as proposed by the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons, which included of course a distinguished representative from the Caribbean.

So while South Africa must certainly be discussed at Vancouver, I hope that we shall also devote plenty of time to other issues, as indeed the Commonwealth Secretary-General has proposed. In particular I would like to see us discuss economic problems and the international debt crisis. I know, Prime Minister, that with your

tremendous experience and expertise in this field, you have recently made some very important proposals for dealing with debt problems.

They will be discussed in a number of international gatherings and we are examining them with great interest.

Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, short visits should be marked by short speeches.

I want to thank you once more for your generous hospitality and say how much I am looking forward to our talk this afternoon.

It is very cheering to find such warmth and such friendship.

An occasion like this brings to mind Polonius' words in Hamlet:

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried

Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of
steel."

That I believe expresses better than
anything the feelings which we in Britain
have for Jamaica.

And it is in that spirit that I raise my
glass to drink a toast to you, Prime
Minister, and to the success of your
policies and to the lasting friendship

between Britain and Jamaica.

BOB MARLEY'S "GET UP, STAND UP"

Preacher man don't tell me
Heaven is under the earth
I know you don't know
What life is really worth
It's not all that glitters is gold
Half the story has never been told
So now you see the lights
Stand up for our rights
We're sick and tired of our kissing game
To die and go to heaven in Jesus name
We know and understand
Almighty God is a living man
You can fool some people sometimes
But you can't fool all the people all the time

V

Rites

Many a time I have seen him savin'
the side (the tailor was saying
as he sat and sewed in his shop).

You remember that tourney wid Brandon?
What-he-name-now
that big-able water policeman—

de one in charge o' de Harbour Patrol . . .
You mean Hop-
a-long Cass? Is because a cow

give he mother a kick before he did born
that he foot come out so.
Yes, I know

but is not what I talkin' about. Ol'
Hoppy was bowlin' that day
as if he was hurricane father.

Lambert went in, play-
in' he know all about it as us'al
an' swoosh! there he go fan-

nin' outside the off-stump an'
is click!
he snick

de ball straight into de slips.
'Well boys it look like we lossin'
this match', says the skipper,

writin' nought in the exercise book
he was keepin' the score in; 'you think
we could chance it an' sen' Gullstone in

before Charlie or Spooks?
So Gullstone went in.
You could see he face whitenin'

under he tan an' you know
that that saga-boy frighten: bat
tappin', feet walkin' 'bout like they talkin'

wid ants; had was to stop meself axin'
meself if he ever play cricket on Brown's beach before.
An' I tole him,

I tole him over an' over
agen: *watch de ball, man*, watch
de ball like it hook to you eye

when you first goes in an' you doan know de pitch.
Uh doan mean to *poke*
but you jes got to *watch what you doin'*;

this isn't no time for playin'
the fool nor makin' no sport; this is cricket!
But Gullstone too deaf:

mudder doan clean out de wax in 'e ear!
Firs' ball from Cass an' he fishin';
secon' ball an' he missin', swishin'

he bat like he wishin'
to catch butterfly; though the all Gullstone ever could catch
pun dis beach was a cole!

But is always the trouble wid we:
too fraid an' too frighten.
Is all very well when it rosy an' sweet,

but leh murder start an' *bruggalungdung!*
you cahn fine a man to hole up de side.

Look wha' happen las' week at de Oval!
val!

At de Oval?
Wha' happen las' week at de Oval?

You mean to say that you come
in here wid dat lime-skin cone
that you callin' a hat
pun you head, an' them slip slop shoe strap

on to you foot like a touris';
you sprawl you ass

all over my chair widdout ask-
in' me please leave nor licence,
wastin' muh time when you know very well that uh cahn fine
enough to finish these zoot suits

'fore Christmas; an' on top
o' all this, you could wine up de nerve to stop

me cool cool cool in de middle
o' all me needle

an' t'read; make me prick me hand in me haste;
an' tell me broad an' bole to me face

THAT YOU DOAN REALLY KNOW WHA' HAPPEN
at Kensington Oval?

We was *only* playin' de MCC, man;
M - C - C
who come all de way out from Inglan.

We was battin', you see;
score wasn't too bad; one
hurren an' ninety-

seven fuh three.

The openers out, Tae Worrell out,
Everton Weekes jus' glide two fuh fifty

an' jack, is de GIANT to come!
Feller name Wardle
was bowlin'; tossin' it up

sweet sweet slow-medium syrup.
Firs' ball . . .
'N . . . o . . . o . . .'

back down de wicket to Wardle.
Secon' ball . . .
'N . . . o . . . o . . .'

back down de wicket to Wardle.
Third ball comin' up
an' we know wha' goin' happen to syrup:

Clyde back pun he back
foot an' *prax!*
is through extra cover an' four red runs all de way.

'You see dat shot?' the people was shoutin';
'Jesus Chrise, man, wunna see dat shot?'
All over de groun' fellers shakin' hands wid each other

as if was *they* wheelin' de willow
as if was *them* had the power;
one man run out pun de field wid a red fowl cock

goin' quawk quawk quawk in 'e han';
would'a give it to Clyde right then an' right there
if a police hadn't stop 'e!

An' in front o' where I was sittin',
one ball-headed sceptic snatch hat off he head
as if he did crazy

an' pointin' he finger at Wardle,
he jump up an' down
like a sun-shatter daisy an' bawl

out: 'B . . . L . . . O . . . O . . . D, B . . . I . . . G B . . . O . . . Y
bring me he B . . . L . . . O . . . O . . . D'
Who would'a think that for twenty-

five years he was standin' up there
in them Post Office cages, lickin' gloy
pun de Gover'ment stamps.

If uh wasn't there to see fuh meself,
I would'a never believe it,
I would'a never believe it.

But I say it once an' I say it agen:
when things goin' good, you cahn touch
we; but leh murder start an' you cahn fine a man to hole up de side.

Like when Laker come on.
Goin' remember what happenin' then
for the rest o' me life.

This Laker a quiet tall heavy-face fellow
who before he start to do anything ser'ous
is hitch up he pants round he belly.

He bowlin' off-breaks.
Int makin' no fuss
jus' toss up de firs'

one an' *bap!*
Clyde play forward firm
an' de ball hit he pad

an' fly up over de wicket.
Boy, *dis* is cricket!
Laker shift weight

an' toss up de secon';
it pitchin' off-stump an' comin' back sharp
wid de men in de leg trap shinin' like shark.

Clyde stretchin' right out like a man in de dark
an' he kill it.
'N . . . O . . . O . . . o', from de schoolboys, 'hit it, hit it'.

Boy, dis is *cricket*.
Then Laker come down wid he third
one. He wrap up de ball in de palm

o' he han' like a package
AN' MAKE CLYDE WALCOTT LOOK FOOLISH.
Mister man, could'a hear

all de flies that was buzzin' out there
round de bread carts; could'a hear
if de empire fart.

An' then blue murder start:
'Kill one o' dem, Clyde', some wise-
wun was shoutin', 'knock he skull off;

doan let them tangle you up in no leg trap;
use de feet dat God give you!
Ev'ry blabber mout' talkin',

ev'ry man jack givin' advice;
but we so frighten now at what happenin' there
we could piss we pants if we doan have a care.

'Swing de bat, man', one feller was shoutin';
an' Clyde swing de bat but de bat miss
de ball an' de ball hit he pad

an' he pad went *biff*
like you beatin' bed
an' de empire han' stick

in de air
like Francis who dead
an' de bess o' we batsmen out.

The crowd so surprise you int hearin' a shout.
Ev'ry mout' loss.
But I say it once an' I say it agen:

when things goin' good, you cahn touch
we; but leh murder start
an' ol man, you cahn fine a man to hole up de side...

GRS 189

Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM KINGSTON
 TO DESKBY 100800Z FCO
 TELNO 261
 OF 092155Z JULY 87

MIPT : VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER

1. AFTER DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROGRAMME, AT WHICH FRANCIS (PERMANENT SECRETARY, MFA) WAS ALSO PRESENT, BRICE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE PRIME MINISTER COULD MAKE SOME REFERENCE IN HER SPEECH AT LUNCH TO SEAGA'S PROPOSAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEBT CRISIS. SHE MIGHT SAY THAT IT IS BEING EXAMINED WITH INTEREST AND THAT WE KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A PAPER OF IMPORTANCE FOR DISCUSSION IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA (OUR TEL 242 PARA 5B REFERS) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT BY FAX ON 10 JULY.

2. FRANCIS ALSO SAID AND SPEAKING QUITE PRIVATELY (PLEASE PROTECT) HE THOUGHT THAT GIVEN THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICA ISSUE HERE, AND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE RECENT VISIT OF TAMBO (WHO WAS PREDICTABLY ADVOCATING COMPREHENSIVE MANDATORY SANCTIONS - AS WAS SHEarer AT THE OFFICIAL LUNCH FOR TAMBO (OUR TELNO 259)) THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MRS THATCHER WAS ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT BRITAIN'S STAND AGAINST APARTHEID AND OF THE POSITIVE ACTION WHICH BRITAIN HAD BEEN TAKING IN THIS REGARD.

PAYNE

KGH/PAN 2380

JAMAICA: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

LIMITED

WIAD
 NEWS DEPT
 INFO DEPT
 NAD
 SAMD
 PLANNING STAFF
 MCAD
 CCD
 PUSD
 SOVIET DEPT
 SAFD
 ERD
 PROTOCOL DEPT

PS
 PS/LORD GLENARTHUR
 PS/MR EGGAR
 PS/PUS
 MR GILLMORE
 MR FEARN

COPIES TO:

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET
 TROPICAL FOODS DIVISION, MAFF

OT4/DTI (Vic St)

ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE

LACPD, ODA

Confidential

