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FILE TITLE:

Commitments

SERIES

PRIME MINISTER

PART:

10

PART BEGINS:

30 DECEMBER 2000

PART ENDS:

10 APRIL 2001

CAB ONE:

~~CLOSED~~

PREM 49/2/94

LABOUR ADMINISTRATION

PART 10 CLOSED ON 10/4/01

CONFIDENTIAL

T.S.O. Order No. N0064510 3/98 C5 59064

PART 10

CLOSED

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| DATE CLOSED | 10/4/2001 |
|--------------------|-----------|

Series : PRIME MINISTER

File Title : Commitments

Part : 10

| Date | From | To | Subject | Class | Secret |
|------------|---------------|-------------|---|-------|--------|
| 02/01/2001 | Spain/HME | FCO | Summits in June 2002 | U | 0 |
| 03/01/2001 | Canada / HMHC | FA/PS | Summits in June 2002` | R | 0 |
| 04/01/2001 | | | Nanette Whyte, Air Race: London/Sydney Centenary Air Race | U | 0 |
| 05/01/2001 | Germany/HME | FA/APS | Letter of invitation to the PM: Charlemagne Prize Award Ceremony | U | 0 |
| 08/01/2001 | SPad/PM | PM | Your Visit to Bristol, 9 January 2001 | U | 0 |
| 08/01/2001 | Ch.Staff | PU | IoD | U | 0 |
| 12/01/2001 | FA/APS | | To Prof Eversheim: Invitation to the PM: Charlemagne Prize Award | U | 0 |
| 12/01/2001 | FA/APS | PM | UJIA Gala dinner 15 Jan | C | 0 |
| 15/01/2001 | FCO | FA/PS | Summits in June 2002 | R | 0 |
| 26/01/2001 | | Ch.Staff | From Lord Powell of Bayswater - Aspen Institute's Statesman Award | U | 0 |
| 29/01/2001 | FCO | FA/APS | Possible Visit by the Prime Minister to Airbus, Toulouse 9 February 2 | U | 0 |
| 07/02/2001 | | | From Lord Powell of Bayswater To Henry Catto - Aspen Institutes St | U | 0 |
| 23/02/2001 | EA/PS | PM | Queen's Award for Enterprise | U | 0 |
| 27/02/2001 | PRESS | PM | Sunday people: Kirsty Howard campaign | C | 0 |
| 27/02/2001 | NIO | diary sec | Best of northern Ireland exhibition: briefing | C | 0 |
| 02/03/2001 | FA/APS | | letter to Sir Colin Chandler, Vickers defence system: No opportunity f | C | 0 |
| 14/03/2001 | FCO | FA/APS | Visits Committee: Cancellation of Meeting | R | 0 |
| 28/03/2001 | | PM | Letter from Gorbachev and Hidalgo - GFNA conference | C | 0 |
| 30/03/2001 | Canada/Hcom | Ch.Staff | Bombardier Transportation | C | 0 |
| 02/04/2001 | | HO | Invite to Global forum on fighting corruption | C | 0 |
| 03/04/2001 | | Ch.Staff | from George Cox, institute of directors: right decision to postpone ele | C | 0 |
| 04/04/2001 | FA/APS | FCO | Invitation to the PM | C | 0 |
| 05/04/2001 | PM | | To Mikhail Gorbachev - Invitation to the Conference on Democratic T | U | 0 |
| 06/04/2001 | Germany/HMA | FA/APS | Patronage of 50th Handel Music Festiva; 8-17 June 2001 | U | 0 |
| 06/04/2001 | FA/APS | Germany/HMA | Patronage of 50th Handel Music Festival | U | 0 |
| 10/04/2001 | SCU | PM | Progress Meeting at MAFF HQ, with Devon NFU Representatives, F | U | 0 |

From: Lucie Mcneil
Date: 10 April 2001

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Alastair Campbell
Anji Hunter
David North
Anne Shevas
Tanya Joseph
Detectives
Drivers
Duty Clerks
Garden Rooms
Kate Garvey

PROGRESS MEETING AT MAFF HQ, WITH DEVON NFU REPRESENTATIVES, FARMERS, ARMY, TOURISM OFFICERS AND MAFF OFFICIALS

1510-1515 You are meeting these representatives to check on progress since your last meeting in Devon. As before you will be met at the front door by Andy Lebrecht (Director of Ops), Lt Col Robin Vickers and John Cross (Head of Veterinary Services). You will have a quick pre-briefing and Andy will cover improvements and issues since your last visit.

1515-1645 This will be your main meeting. Malcolm Bell, Chief Executive South West Tourism, will be attending this meeting again and needs some time to explain the situation in the South West. You should be aware that David Hill, the Devon NFU County Chairman, who did not attend the last meeting, will also be there and is likely to be quite difficult.

1645-1705 You will do a clip for pooled media as before and speak to some of the staff again before leaving for Exeter train station with Ben Bradshaw MP. He will travel in the car with you to brief you on local issues before your interviews on route to Torquay.

A list of those attending is attached, as is a summary of the joint campaign "SOS South West" launched by the Exeter Express and Echo and its sister papers, the Plymouth Evening Herald, the Torbay Herald Express and the Western Morning News.

Lucie McNeil

PP

LUCIE MCNEIL

To: Lucy

From: Andy Lebrecht

Officials

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Andy Lebrecht | Director of Operations |
| John Cross | Head of Veterinary Services (West) |
| Ben Bennett | Divisional Veterinary Manager |

Army

Lt Col Robin Vickers

Farmers

2 farmers nominated by NFU [not yet known]

NFU

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anthony Gibson | Regional Director, NFU South West |
| David Hill | Devon NFU County Chairman |

Country Landowners and Business Association

| | |
|------------|--|
| Tim Brooks | Regional Director for Devon and Cornwall |
|------------|--|

Tourism

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Malcolm Bell | Chief Executive, South West Tourism |
| A N Other | Tourism representative |

Devon County Council

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Roger Rivett | Head of Trading Standards, Devon County Council |
|--------------|---|

Devon Livestock Market Auctioneers

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Paul Griffin (or substitute) | Chairman |
|------------------------------|----------|

Environment Agency

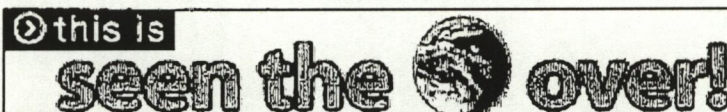
| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Richard Cresswell (or substitute) | SW Regional Director |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|

MP

Ben Bradshaw



- Latest news
- Local headlines
- National news
- Foot & Mouth

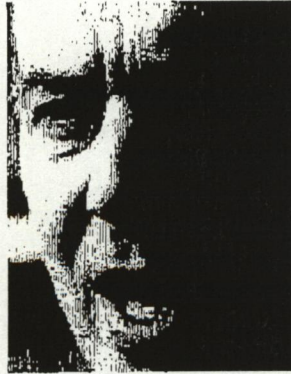


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Home

WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Tony Blair today responded to the SOS South West campaign with warm words but no promise of the kind of financial aid that would help the region survive the foot-and-mouth crisis.

The Prime Minister said he knew people in the South West were suffering, but he could not come up with a blank cheque.

The Express & Echo had asked him to write one for £150m to help businesses in Devon and Cornwall.

In a joint campaign launched with the three other daily newspapers in the region — the Evening Herald, Plymouth, the Herald Express, Torquay, and the Western Morning News — we highlighted the devastation that foot-and-mouth was causing to the local economy, the firms on the brink of closure and the thousands who could lose their jobs.

A special edition of the paper was sent to all MPs yesterday, was highlighted in the Commons and sparked two Early Day Motions in support of the campaign.

But although the Government pledged £150m of public cash to help stave off the threat to the Longbridge car plant in the West Midlands last year — a crisis of arguably lesser proportion — Mr Blair had no such immediate pledge for the people of the South West. He was due to announce today that nationally £120m of loans would be made available to help tourist and retail businesses that were suffering cash-flow problems. Firms would be able to apply to borrow between £5,000 and £250,000 through an extension to the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme run by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Blair described this move as "exactly the sort of measure that the Echo demanded yesterday."

But there was no promise of targeted help for the South

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This is Exeter - Exeter Express and Echo Online - News

Page 2 of 2

Hoteliers Association, said: "If this money is the start of a bigger package, it is welcome. If this is all we are getting them it is lamentably low.

"To apply for a loan is a lengthy procedure and what stricken businesses want is help now rather than tomorrow. To some £120 million might sound like a lot but it will only tickle the sides of the problem."

Chairman of Exeter Business Forum Derek Phillips said: "I think that a loan scheme is no use to businesses who have lost money through foot-and-mouth — they need compensation.

"The money are they are making available hardly seems generous and our region still needs a much more substantial package."

Brian Greenslade, chairman of Devon County Council, said: "These measures are a start, but we still need to

Brian Greenslade, chairman of Devon County Council, said: "These measures are a start, but we still need to be pressing for a regional task force with the funds to regenerate our region."

Gay Gilbert, who is facing the loss of her Cullompton-based All Angles fishing business because of the crisis, said: "Loans are all very well, but businesses which have been genuinely hit by this crisis should get compensation."

Mr Blair was also today due to announce a £6m campaign to promote British tourism.

He said in the article written for the Echo: "These are, I know, very worrying times for many people in Devon and throughout the South West. "Livestock farmers are, of course, suffering terribly. Their pain and despair are all too real. But, as this paper highlighted yesterday, this terrible disease has cast a shadow across tourism — so vital for Devon and Cornwall — and many other businesses." Mr Blair said the Government was considering what sort of support could be given to the region.

"I accept more help may be needed. I can't, of course, promise a blank cheque.

"We are listening to what you say and looking carefully at what further help could be provided. We will not walk away."

But without a firm pledge of targeted financial help for the South West, there were many for whom his words had a hollow ring.

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Plymouth Evening Herald
Torbay Herald Express
Exeter Express & Echo
Western Morning News

9th APRIL

Devon & Cornwall

The main story today was the opening of coastal paths in Cornwall, and the announcement of a £4m aid package from the RDA. South West Tourism reps have said FMD could cost the Westcountry industry over £1bn. SWT say the damage has been done, but the message still has to go out that parts of the coasts and all the cities and towns are open for visitors.

There was also coverage of the start of works at the Meeth burial site, negotiations on access continue to be an issue. However, the 'listening' mode of MAFF officials has paid off, and vox pops generally accept the need for the site while continuing to be concerned about the impact of the site on the region.

TOURISM: MEASURES ALREADY ANNOUNCED (as of 10 April)

- Extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme to cover tourism and retail businesses, plus more flexibility on repayment of existing loans. The scheme will now underwrite an extra £120m in additional loans.
- £6m additional funding for tourism marketing to BTC and ETC.
- Extended relief from business rates, through:
 - increased central government contribution to rate relief from 75% to 95% for SMEs in rural authorities of greatest need;
 - 50% rate relief to food shops, pubs and petrol stations in small rural settlements with rateable value less than £9,000;
 - three month extension for appeals against business rate revaluation;
 - local authorities allowing deferred payment of rates;
 - temporary reductions in rateable values from the Valuation Office Agency.

(NB Measures are England only. Estimated that 75% of rural businesses will be eligible. Welsh and Scots have separate packages.)

- More flexible arrangements for submitting tax payments to the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise, including deferred payments;
- An expanded small business helpline (run by the SBS) that is now taking over 100 calls a day;
- A new helpline (run by the English Tourism Council) for people wishing to visit the countryside.
- New guidance on footpaths (from DETR/MAFF) to make it easier for local authorities to assess which footpaths could be safely opened (28 March);
- New guidance on visitor attractions (from DCMS) in order to help them open where there is minimal risk of FMD (28 March);
- New website ("openbritain.gov.uk") to provide information on attractions that are open (launched 4 April).

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS: STATE OF PLAY 10 APRIL

- Responses to a survey by the British Tourist Authority of the UK's 15,000 top attractions and events, shows that 80% of attractions are open, and 91% of events are going ahead.
- The "big name" attractions are already open include: Alton Towers, Legoland, Chessington World of Adventures, Chatsworth House, Chester Zoo, Thorpe Park, Windsor Castle, Flamingo Land, Warwick Castle, Leeds Castle, Chartwell, Madam Tussaud's and the Roman Baths at Bath.
- Stonehenge is now open as will be Richmond and Bushey Parks.
- 137 member properties of the Historic Houses Association are already welcoming visitors.
- The top 10 visitor attractions and the top 10 historic properties charging for admission plan to be open for business at Easter.
- The National Trust and English Heritage both expect to have 200 properties open by Easter.
- A new lottery-funded attraction, "Magna" in Rotherham will be opening to the public on 12 April.

TOURISM & RURAL BUSINESSES CORE SCRIPT & ANNOUNCEMENTS 10 APRIL

- The Government will continue to look at what steps we can take to help the tourist industry. But, as the tourist industry has said, the single thing they need most is custom and that means getting the situation back to normal as quickly as possible in the areas affected. We will continue to monitor closely the position of the tourist industry over the next few weeks through our discussions with the industry.
- Britain is open for Business. Responses to a survey by the British Tourist Authority of the UK's 15,000 top attractions and events, shows that 80% of attractions are open, and 91% of events are going ahead. The top 10 visitor attractions and the top 10 historic properties charging for admission all plan to be open for business at Easter.
- We have provided an extra £6m to the English Tourist Council and the British Tourist Association to boost their advertising campaigns to help get across the message that 'Britain is open for Business'.
- We have already announced measures to help the tourist industry and other businesses in the rural economy such as enhancing the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, expanded business helplines temporary relief from business rates and greater flexibility from the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise.
- The Regional Development Agencies are already providing advice and support to businesses in the worst affected areas. We will continue to work with them on measures to help the businesses immediately affected by this crisis and on longer term plans for the regeneration of the areas affected.
- Chris Smith is today (11 April) launching the recovery strategy for British tourism.... *To be fleshed out by DCMS.*
- We are today (11 April) launching Rural Skills Action – a new service from DFEE retraining and education focused at people working in a range of industries hit by foot and mouth. It will help boost skills for those who are temporarily laid off, provide a big help for those who lose their jobs permanently and ensure Jobcentres in the worst-hit areas act as one-stop-shops for people seeking advice on Government-related services. Details to be announced by David Blunkett.

- [Regional seminars are taking place with local authorities on putting the guidance for reopening footpaths into practice, as x counties already have. In x counties x% of footpaths are open.] *To be fleshed out by DETR, Devon & SW related references for Wednesday 11, rest for Thursday 12.*
- [We are providing £5m to assist local authorities to safely reopen footpaths, by for example fencing off livestock and providing additional signs.] *To be confirmed by DETR, for announcement Thursday 12.*
- British waterways are re-opening 1000km of towpaths. *To be announced by DETR/DPM Thursday 12.*
- [We are providing £15m of direct aid to the hardest hit businesses in the most badly effected areas of Devon, Cumbria and the Marches.] *NOT agreed by DPM.*
- For now, the message is clear: go to the countryside, but stay away from livestock. Britain is open for business.

File (In Margin)



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 April 2001

Dear Paul

PATRONAGE OF 50TH HANDEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The draft text attached to your letter is fine. Once it has been translated, we could easily arrange for a signature to be put at the bottom if that would look good in the Festival brochure. Let me know if you want to do that.

You are certainly right to make clear that the Prime Minister will not attend the opening on 8 June!

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Tatham".

MICHAEL TATHAM

Sir Paul Lever
Berlin

ds



f

From The Ambassador

Sir Paul Lever

*MT
R. J. J.
JPO
Press
KG*

British Embassy
Berlin

Wilhelmstraße 70
10117 Berlin

Tel: +49 (30) 204 57-0

6 April 2001

Michael Tatham Esq
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Michael,

PATRONAGE OF 50TH HANDEL MUSIC FESTIVAL; 8-17 JUNE 2001

Following my letter to John Sawers of 9 May last year, the Prime Minister kindly agreed, along with Chancellor Schroeder, to be joint patron of the 50th Handel Festival in Halle. He did so on the understanding that he would not be expected to attend and would simply provide a short text of greetings for the Festival brochure. The organisers are now pressing us for a text and I attach a draft for your approval. The message will be translated into German and published alongside a message from the Chancellor.

We understand that Chancellor Schroeder has agreed to attend the Festival opening on 8 June. The Prime Minister will receive an invitation but we have made it clear to the organisers that he will not be able to attend.

Yours etc

[Signature]

+49 30 20457571

**DRAFT TEXT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS CO-PATRON
OF THE HANDEL FESTIVAL (FOR TRANSLATION)**

As joint patron I am delighted to join Chancellor Schroeder in sending all of those involved in the 50th Handel Festival my warm best wishes.

Like many of you I enjoy good music. Love for music is one of the many things which Britons and Germans have in common. It is not only a source of entertainment and pleasure: it is also something which unites and builds bridges between cultures.

During his life, Georg Friedrich Handel showed more than anyone how music can cross national divides. He was perhaps the first truly 'European' composer. He was born in Halle, which today has the world's only Handel museum and provides a fitting venue for the Festival. But it was during his 47 years in London that he composed his most famous works. His grave in Westminster Abbey is just a few minutes walk from my home in Downing Street.

Handel's music is still much loved in Britain and throughout the world. The celebration this year of 50 years of the Handel Festival demonstrates this. May I pass on my congratulations on this significant achievement and wish all those involved every success.

File

pmg



cc: FCO
HMCC, Boston

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 April 2001

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mikhail,

Thank you and Diego Hidalgo for your letter of 28 March inviting me to participate in the final plenary session of the Conference on Democratic Transition and Consolidation in Madrid on 27 October.

Unfortunately I do not expect to be able to attend this Conference. However, given the important issues which will be discussed, I have forwarded your letter to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They will be in touch soon letting you know whether another UK Minister could attend in my place.

Yours truly
Tony Blair

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev

ds



File

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 April 2001

Dear Mark

INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

I attach a letter from the Gorbachev Foundation of North America and a Spanish Foundation inviting the Prime Minister to attend a Conference in Madrid in October. The Prime Minister will not be able to attend this Conference but you may wish to consider whether an FCO or other Minister should attend in his place.

We will reply to the organisers saying that the Prime Minister will not attend but that they can expect to hear shortly from the FCO about whether someone else can represent HMG at the Conference.

Yours ever



MICHAEL TATHAM

Mark Sedwill
FCO

T



10 DOWNING STREET

Jonathan Payne

~~SM~~
~~So do you take we should do it all? why do we see this?~~
✓

My worry about

this is that it

would give legitimacy

to the IOD + give

credence to the future

attacks on us (of which

I suspect there will be increasing numbers).

✓

25/4



INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

From the Director General

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Jonathan Powell Esq
Chief of Staff
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

3rd April 2001

SN
- cc MF
JH
ky
su

File

Virus?

✓

Jonathan

The seeing them regularly is difficult to the PM doing a secret to

Dear Jonathan

I personally think the decision to postpone the election is the right one, given the current circumstances.

them. happy

Turning from national to self-interest, I wondered how this affects the setting of a date for the PM to open the IoD's new 'young directors and entrepreneurs' building in Pall Mall? You recall we were due to speak about now to fix this.

Presumably, anything prior to June 7th is out. Could we, therefore, pencil in a date for the week commencing 11th June? I'm out of the country the following week and if we push it back any later, then we are looking at the end of June, by which time we are getting into the summer and the premises will have been unofficially in use for several weeks. With regard to the time of day, we can be very flexible, and we are, after all, just round the corner!

As you know, I am extremely keen for the PM to perform the opening. I think it is one of the most significant events in the IoD's 97 years history, moving us away from the 'old gentleman's club' image that is far removed from today's reality.

If I am making unwarranted assumptions about the outcome of the election, I am sure you will not embarrass me by publicising the fact. The invitation is, of course, conditional on the outcome!

GEORGE COX



Michael Tatham - N°10

Further to your letter of 29/12/00 & my reply dated 21/2 - Please find the enclosed programme.

I have also given a copy to Lord Bassam Office & our office Christine Stewart.



Ambassade van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

→ GR

Miss Korena Butler
Ass. Diary Secretary to
The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

Korena Butler,
Diary office, Rm 762
Home Office.

Royal Netherlands Embassy
Political Department
38 Hyde Park Gate
London SW7 5DP

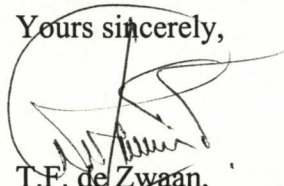
Date 2 April, 2001
Our ref.
Page 1/1
Encl.
Subject Global Forum on Corruption, 28 - 31 May, The Hague

Processor Pauline Eizema
Tel. +44 207 590 3293
Fax +44 207 225 0947
E-mail pauline.eizema@minbuza.nl

Dear Ms. Butler,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February, in which you acknowledge receipt of the invitation to the Secretary of State to the "Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity II" and inform us that the UK representation is being dealt with through the Prime Minister's office.

For your information I hereby send you copies of the provisional programme of the conference.

Yours sincerely,

T.F. de Zwaan,
Minister Plenipotentiary

613 237 5211



British High Commission Ottawa

Trade/Economic Section

80 Elgin Street Ottawa ON K1P 5K7

Tel: 613 237 1530 Fax: 613 237 5211 martin.uden@fco.gov.uk

JPO
cc: JPH
SV
PU
KG

30 March 2001

Jonathan Powell Esq
Chief of Staff
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA
207 839 9044 (4 pages)

Dear Jonathan,

BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION

1. You may recall that at the Breakfast on 22 February organised for Canadian Business, Pierre Lortie of Bombardier Transportation extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to participate in the opening of a new railway maintenance facility in the Midlands. He has now followed up with a more specific request in his letter of 27 March to the High Commissioner, enclosing a letter of the same date to the Prime Minister. Both are attached with this fax; the original to the Prime Minister follows by bag.
2. Purely from the perspective of an extremely important investor in the UK and an investment in a sector close to the Government's priorities, this invitation merits serious consideration. Clearly, however, scheduling an appointment in May currently could pose problems.
3. We would be happy to forward a reply on your behalf if you wished, but would be equally content if you wished to correspond directly with Mr Lortie.
4. I am copying this to John Cohen and Adrian Tipper in Invest-UK and Nicolas Armour in NAD FCO.

Zoen en.

Martin D Uden
Counsellor (Trade/Economic)

cc: John Cohen Esq, Invest-UK) 207 215 0482
Adrian Tipper Esq, Invest-UK)
Nicholas Armour Esq, NAD FCO

Pierre Lortie
President and
Chief Operating Officer



(24)

27/3
① *copy (+ letter to No.10) for
HC o.r.*

② *Mr Uden - for action please*

**BOMBARDIER
TRANSPORTATION**

Bombardier Inc.
1101 Parent Street
Saint-Bruno, Québec, Canada J3V 6E8
Telephone 1(450) 441-3142
Fax 1(450) 441-0827
plortie@transport.bombardier.com

March 27, 2001

[Handwritten signature]
29/3

Mr. Andrew Burns
High Commissioner
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
80 Elgin Street
Ottawa K1P 5K7

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Destroy After: Register | | <i>4.10 09117</i> |
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| MAR 29 2001 | | |
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| INDEX | PA | ACTING TOLSON |

Dear High Commissioner,

Firstly, I want to thank you for your invitation to meet with Right Honourable Tony Blair at your residence on Thursday February 22nd, 2001. It was a truly memorable occasion.

You will recall that I suggested to the Prime Minister that he may want to consider participating in the opening ceremonies of our new Central Rivers maintenance facility located in the Midlands, near Derby.

I enclose a letter officially inviting Prime Minister Blair to that event, which we would be pleased to schedule to suit his diary. I would very much appreciate if you would deem it appropriate to forward the letter to him, with a suitable recommendation on your part.

Your support in this matter is very much appreciated.

[Handwritten signature: Pierre Lortie]
Pierre Lortie

PL:mcp
Burns.doc

613 237 5211

Pierre Lortie
President and
Chief Operating Officer



**BOMBARDIER
TRANSPORTATION**

Bombardier Inc.
1101 Parent Street
Saint-Bruno, Québec, Canada J3V 6E6
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Fax 1(450) 441-0827
plortie@transport.bombardier.com

March 27, 2001

Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

It was a pleasure to meet with you for breakfast on 22 February 2001. As I mentioned during our meeting, Bombardier Transportation would be delighted if you could join us as our guest of honour at the official opening of our new maintenance facility, Central Rivers, located in the Midlands, near Derby.

This new £30 million facility has been built primarily to carry out the maintenance of the new fleet of trains being manufactured by Bombardier Transportation for Virgin Trains' CrossCountry services. We are very excited about the opening of this new facility, which is excellent news for both Bombardier Transportation and for the local economy with over 250 new jobs being created.

The opening ceremony for Central Rivers will provide an excellent opportunity to emphasize the contribution of private investments to the goal of improving the capacity, punctuality and reliability of passenger rail service in the United Kingdom with a new generation of trains built with safety as a central consideration. Thus, it would provide you with an excellent opportunity – if you so choose – to reiterate the UK Government objectives stated in your 10-year Transport Policy.

613 237 5211

Page 2

This event could also provide an excellent showcase to demonstrate how private sector organizations can work with Government to support transport policy, for the ultimate benefit of the travelling public.

We intend to officially open Central Rivers during May and would be happy to arrange a date to suit your schedule. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.



Pierre Lortie

PL: mcp
Blair.doc

Pierre Lortie
President and
Chief Operating Officer



**BOMBARDIER
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29/3
① *PL copy (+ letter to No.10) for
HC o.r.*

② *Mr Uden - for action please*

March 27, 2001

[Signature]
29/3

Mr. Andrew Burns
High Commissioner
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
80 Elgin Street
Ottawa K1P 5K7

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Destroy After: Register | | <i>see call 7</i> |
| RECEIVED IN REGISTRY | | |
| MAR 29 2001 | | |
| DESK OFFICER | REGISTRY | |
| INDEX PA | Action Taken | |
| | | |

Dear High Commissioner,

Firstly, I want to thank you for your invitation to meet with Right Honourable Tony Blair at your residence on Thursday February 22nd, 2001. It was a truly memorable occasion.

You will recall that I suggested to the Prime Minister that he may want to consider participating in the opening ceremonies of our new Central Rivers maintenance facility located in the Midlands, near Derby.

I enclose a letter officially inviting Prime Minister Blair to that event, which we would be pleased to schedule to suit his diary. I would very much appreciate if you would deem it appropriate to forward the letter to him, with a suitable recommendation on your part.

Your support in this matter is very much appreciated.

[Signature]
Pierre Lortie

PL:mcp
Burns.doc

The Right Hon. Mr. Tony Blair
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London
United Kingdom

Madrid, March 28, 2001

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Gorbachev Foundation of North America (GFNA) and the Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE) of Spain, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the final Plenary Session of the Conference on Democratic Transition and Consolidation which will be held in Madrid next October 27th, with the participation of a significant number of Heads of State and Government from countries which have gone through a democratic transition in the last 30 years. This Conference is supported by H.M. King Juan Carlos and the President of the Spanish Government, Mr. José María Aznar.

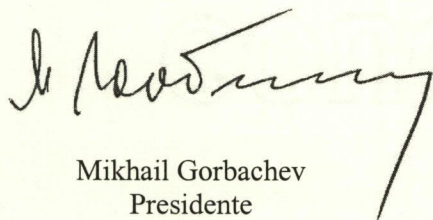
As Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, a country with great political influence and a long democratic tradition, your presence would be very important, as it would provide an important gesture of support for the efforts of democratic consolidation in the world.

For your information we enclose a brief summary of the Conference and its objectives, a Preliminary Calendar and a very short description of the general objectives of the Gorbachev Foundation and of FRIDE, co-organizers of the Conference. As you can see, the Plenary Closing Session will take place on October 27th at 12 noon; it will be followed by a luncheon at the Royal Palace, presided over by H. M. the King.

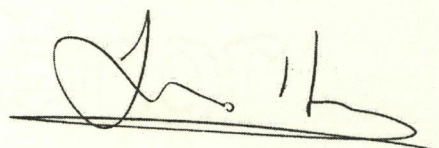
If your schedule allows, we would appreciate your reserving this date. Soon we will be in contact with your staff and will be glad to give them any additional information which you might need.

In the hope that we can greet you personally in Madrid,

Respectfully yours,



Mikhail Gorbachev
Presidente
GFNA



Diego Hidalgo
Presidente
FRIDE

LIST OF MODERATORS

- **His Excellency Inder Kumar Gujral.** Former Prime Minister of India
- **His Excellency Anibal Cavaco Silva.** Former President of Portugal
- **His Excellency Cesar Gaviria.** Former President of Colombia
- **His Excellency Julio M^a Sanguinetti** Former President of Uruguay
- **Her Excellency Kim Campbell.** Former Prime Minister of Canada
- **His Excellency Leonel Fernandez.** Former President of The Dominican Republic
- **His Excellency Jose Maria Figueres.** Former President of Costa Rica
- **Her Excellency Hanna Suchocka.** Former Prime Minister of Poland

LIST OF COORDINATORS

GENERAL COORDINATOR

- **Mr. Daniel Sharp.** President and CEO of The American Assembly, Columbia University, USA

COORDINATORS

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

- **Mr. Richard Simeon.** Professor of Political Science. University of Toronto , Canada.

STRENGTHENING OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PLURALISM AND OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- **Mr. Grzegorz Ekiert.** Professor of Government. Centre for European Studies. Harvard University, USA.

CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS: THE JUDICIARY AND ITS RELATION TO EXECUTIVE POWER

- **Mr. Guillermo O'Donnell.** Professor of Government. Notre Dame University, USA.

CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS: LEGISLATIVE POWER AND ITS RELATION TO EXECUTIVE POWER

- **Mr. Bolívar Lamounier.** Researcher. IDESP, Sao Paulo.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- **Excmo. Sr. D. José M^a Maravall.** Academic Director. Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Ciencias Sociales. Instituto Juan March. Former Spanish Minister of Education.

THE STATE: REFORM OF STATE BUREAUCRACY

- **Mr. Byung-kook Kim.** Professor of Government. Korea University, Republic of South Korea.

THE STATE: ROLE OF THE ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

- **Sra. Rut Diamint.** Professor of Political Science. Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. Argentine.

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

- **Ms. Susan Rose-Ackerman.** Professor of Law and Political Science. The School of Law, Yale University, USA

**Fundación para las Relaciones Exteriores y el Diálogo
Exterior (FRIDE)**

Gorbachev Foundation of North America (GFNA)

Mission Statement

FRIDE

The Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE) is an independent organization, the aim of which is to inform Spanish society of the international situation and to contribute to the improvement of socio-economic conditions and global policies. This allows the strengthening and spreading of democracy and well-being for as many people as possible. From its headquarters in Madrid, and by means of the organization of courses, seminars, series of lectures or study groups, FRIDE proposes to take an active part in the research, knowledge and dissemination of the major themes affecting society on a world scale, from the strengthening of democracies to international cooperation.

GFNA

The Gorbachev Foundation of North America (GFNA), a non-partisan organization, is dedicated to addressing the central concerns facing humanity in the coming years. The rapid and unexpected changes of the last two decades have required us to adjust to a world for which we have not been prepared. The end of the Cold War, one of the lasting legacies of the policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, has changed not only the military and political balance of power, but has also brought far-reaching changes in the world economy. The central mission of the GFNA is to contribute to an understanding of this new global situation, and to focus public attention on the ways in which the world is being affected by global change.

EXPERTS

Anti-corruption measures

Coordinator: Susan Rose-Ackerman

Assistant: Jeff Bowen

Experts:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Bardhan, Pranab | Berkeley, CA |
| de Michele, Roberto | Buenos Aires, Arg. |
| della Porta, Donatella | Firenze, Italy |
| Di Tella, Rafael | Cambridge, MA |
| Hope, Sr., Kempe Ronald | Gaborone, Botswana |
| Marschall, Miklos | Berlin, Germany |
| Sajó, András | Budapest, Hungary |
| Vincke, Francois | Brussels, Belgium |

Constitutional design

Coordinator: Richard Simeon

Assistant: Luc Turgeon

Experts:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ackerman, Bruce | New Haven, CT |
| Bunce, Valerie | Ithaca, NY |
| Ghai, Yash | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Murray, Christina | Rondebosch, So. Africa |
| Pérez-Díaz, Victor | Madrid |
| Shapiro, Ian | New Haven, CT |
| Sweet, Alec Stone | Oxford, England |

Constitutional powers: legislative power and its relation to executive power

Coordinator: Bolívar Lamounier

Assistant: Ralph Espach

Experts:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Du Toit, Pierre | Stellenbosch, RSA |
| Hartlyn, Jonathan | Chapel Hill, NC |
| Moon, Chung-In | Seoul, Korea |
| Hausmann, Ricardo | Cambridge, MA |
| Von Beyme, Klaus | Germany |
| Weldon, Jeffrey | Mexico |

Constitutional powers: the judiciary and its relation to executive power

Coordinator: Guillermo O'Donnell

Assistant: Pedro Magalhaes

Experts:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Cepeda, Fernando | Bogota, Colombia |
| Correa Sutil, Jorge | Santiago, Chile |
| Garzón Valdés, Ernesto | Bonn, Germany |
| Guarnieri, Carlo | Bologna, Italy |
| Guastini, Riccardo | Genova, Italy |
| Krygier, Martin | Sidney, Australia |
| Nagel, Mónica | San José, Costa Rica |
| Schwartz, Herman | Washington, DC |
| Teitel, Ruti | New York, NY |
| Widner, Jennifer | Ann Arbor, MI |

Economic and social conditions

Coordinator: José M^a Maravall

Assistant: Andrew Richards

Experts:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Corrales, Javier | Amherst, MA |
| Dresser, Denise | Los Angeles, CA |
| Foxley, Alejandro | Chile |
| Przeworski, Adam | New York, NY |

Strengthening of political and social pluralism and of political parties

Coordinator: Grzegorz Ekiert

Assistant: Anna Grzymala-Busse

Experts:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bellin, Eva | Cambridge, MA |
| Bermeo, Nancy | Princeton, NJ |
| Cotta, Maurizio | Siena, Italy |
| Erickson, Kenneth P. | New York, NY |
| Fish, Steven | Berkeley, CA |
| Im, Hyug Baeg | Seoul, Korea |
| Kitschelt, Herbert | Durham, NC |
| Offe, Claus | Berlin, Germany |
| Pei, Minxin | Washington, DC |
| Rychard, Andrzej | Warsaw, Poland |

The State: reform of state bureaucracy

Coordinator: Byung-kook Kim

Assistant: Joo-Youn Jung

Experts:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Albats, Evgeniya | Moscow, Russia |
| Anwar, Dewi Fortuna | Jakarta, Indonesia |
| Brillantes, Alex | Manila, Phillippines |
| Garilao, Ernesto | Phillippines |
| Hibou, Beatrice | Paris, France |
| Kim, Kwang Woong | Seoul, Korea |
| O'Neill, Kathleen | Ithaca, NY |

The State: role of the armed forces and security

Coordinator: Rut Diamint

Assistant:

Experts:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alagappa, Muthiah | Honolulu, HI |
| Azrael, Jeremy | Santa Monica, CA |
| Benítez Manaut, Raúl | DF, México |
| Carrilho, María | Brussels, Belgium |
| Cawthra, Gavin | Wits, Súdfrica |
| Klepak, Hal | Kingston, Ontario |
| Pardo, Rafael | Bogotá, Colombia |
| Serra, Narcis | Barcelona |
| Stepan, Alfred | New York, NY |
| Tulchin, Joseph | Washington, DC |

**Conference on Democratic Transition and
Consolidation**

Provisional Calendar

FIRST PHASE (19-20 October 2001)

Friday 19

| | |
|---------------|---|
| AM | Arrival of experts. |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Inauguration: Presentation of the Conference. |
| 14:00 - 16:00 | Lunch. Welcome address by a Minister of the Spanish Government. |
| 17:00 - 20:00 | First work group session. |
| 21:00 | Dinner. |

Saturday 20

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 - 11:00 | Second work group session. |
| 11:00 - 11:45 | Coffee. |
| 11:45 - 14:00 | Third work group session. |
| 14:00 - 16:00 | Lunch. |
| 16:00 - 19:00 | Fourth work group session. |
| 21:00 | Farewell address by HRH the Prince of Asturias. |

SECOND PHASE (21-23 October 2001)

- Preparation of the summaries of the discussions and the conclusions and proposals of each group, which will be discussed during the Conference of Heads of State and Government.
- The reports will be sent immediately to the Cabinets of the Heads of State and Government.

THIRD PHASE (26-27 October 2001)

Friday 26

| | |
|---------------|---|
| AM | Arrival of the Heads of State and Government. |
| 12:00 - 14:00 | Inaugural Session. Welcome address by the President of the Spanish Government Mr José María Aznar. Brief speeches by all the Heads of State and Government present. |
| 14:30 - 16:00 | Lunch |
| 16:00 - 17:30 | First work group session. Presentation by the spokesmen of the groups of experts and discussion. |
| 17:30 - 17:50 | Coffee |
| 17:50 - 19:20 | Second work session. Presentation by the spokesmen of the groups of experts and discussion. |
| 21:00 | Dinner with the President of the Spanish Government Mr José María Aznar. |

Saturday 27

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 - 10:30 | Third work group session. Presentation by the spokesmen of the groups of experts and discussion. |
| 10:30 - 10:50 | Coffee |
| 10:50 - 12:20 | Fourth work group session. Presentation by the spokesmen of the groups of experts and discussion. |
| 12:20 - 13:20 | Plenary Session. General Discussion. |
| 13:20 - 14:30 | Transport and reception. |
| 14:30 - 17:00 | Lunch. Farewell address by HM King Juan Carlos I. |
| 17:00 onwards | Time available for bilateral activities. |

Other activities

- Possible bilateral meeting of Heads of State and Government.
- Press-conference organised by the Conference.
- Drawing up of the Minutes and final summaries of the Conference and preparation of the reports for publication.

RESTRICTED - VISITS



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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 March 2001

file

Dear Michael,

Visits Committee: Cancellation of Meeting

In the absence of any new bids to consider, we have decided to cancel the Visits Committee meeting set for 22 March.

... I enclose up-dated tables giving the latest information on travel by and calls on the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, and details of the plans of other Ministers from the 'core travelling departments'.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 22 May. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Changes in the Visits Committee Secretariat

I should be grateful if Departments would continue to keep us up-to-date on their Ministers' planned travel and visitors. This will enable us to ensure that all Departments have access to accurate information available on the database. New or revised details of such plans should be sent to the Visits Committee Secretariat, Policy Planning Staff, Room W9, FCO. Please note that your usual contact, Christine McEwen, will leave the department next week. Until her permanent successor is appointed, information should be sent to Francis Kayada (telephone 020 7270 2630, fax 020 7270 3510 e-mail: Francis.Kayada@mail.fco.gov.uk).

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to all members of the Cabinet, and to Sir David Wright (British Trade International), Richard Abel (Cabinet Office) and Tim Hitchens (Buckingham Palace).

Yours ever,
Sherard

(Sherard Cowper-Coles)
Principal Private Secretary

Michael Tatham Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED - VISITS

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VISITS COMMITTEE

OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

PROPOSED OUTWARD TRAVEL BY THE PRIME MINISTER: BILATERAL

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority | Notes |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 22 - 29 July 2001 | Brazil | 1 | Visit postponed twice in 2000. |
| | Mexico | 1 | |
| | Jamaica | 1 | |
| Summer 2001 | Africa | 1 | African Partnership initiative. Specific ideas to be developed by Africa Command. |
| Oct 2001 | New Zealand | 1 | Pre or post CHOGM (Brisbane). Careful planning needed to avoid overlap with The Queen's Realm visit. |
| | Australia | 2 | Immediately after Brisbane CHOGM. |
| During Oct 2001 | Saudi Arabia | 1 | High priority for 2001, possibly en route to or from CHOGM in Australia (Oct). |
| | Gulf States | | |
| During 2001 | Italy | 1 | Summit. No hurry - annual summit an aspiration not a commitment. Also depends on Italian domestic political developments. Note: avoid mid 2001(G8 summit in Genoa). |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

PROPOSED OUTWARD TRAVEL BY THE PRIME MINISTER: BILATERAL

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority | Notes |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| During Jan 2002 | India | 1 | A priority for post-election period. |
| During 2002 | Turkey | 2 | Review nearer the time. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

PROPOSED OUTWARD TRAVEL BY THE PRIME MINISTER: MULTILATERAL EVENTS

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority | Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 23 - 24 March 2001 | Sweden | 1 | European Council (Stockholm). |
| 7 - 8 May 2001 | Germany | | (Berlin) PES Congress. Party business. |
| 13 June 2001 | Belgium | | <i>(Brussels). Meeting with President Bush at NATO.</i> |
| 15 - 16 June 2001 | Sweden | 1 | European Council (Gothenburg). |
| 20 - 22 July 2001 | Italy | | (Genoa) G8 Summit. Confirmed. |
| 6 - 9 October 2001 | Australia | 1 | (Brisbane) CHOGM. Confirmed. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

PROPOSED OUTWARD TRAVEL BY THE PRIME MINISTER: OTHER TRAVEL FOR REVIEW NEXT YEAR

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 26 - 28 September 2002 | Denmark | (Copenhagen) ASEM4. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority | Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Oct/Early Nov 2001 | Morocco | | Preperations for COP 7 UN Climate Change Conference (in 2002) DETR lead. Tbc. |
| During 2001 | Malaysia | 2 | <i>DPM is ready in principle to consider a visit to Malaysia and Singapore.</i> |
| | Singapore | | |
| | Vietnam | | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

FOREIGN SECRETARY: ALREADY AGREED

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 19 March 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |
| 23 - 24 March 2001 | Sweden | European Council (Stockholm). |
| 9 April 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |
| 9 April 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |
| 5 - 6 May 2001 | Sweden | (Nykoping). Gymnich. |
| 7 - 8 May 2001 | Germany | (Berlin) PES Congress. |
| 14 May 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |
| 16 - 18 May 2001 | West Africa | Possible joint visit to West Africa with French Foreign Minister Vedrine (Mali, Sierra Leone and Nigeria). |
| 24 - 25 May 2001 | China | <i>(Peking) ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.</i> |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

FOREIGN SECRETARY: ALREADY AGREED

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|----------------------|----------------|--|
| 29 - 30 May 2001 | Hungary | (Budapest). NAC. |
| 30 May - 1 June 2001 | Norway | Foreign Secretary to accompany The Queen on State visit. |
| 11 - 12 June 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |
| 15 - 16 June 2001 | Sweden | European Council (Gothenburg). |
| 25 - 26 June 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |
| 16 - 17 July 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |
| 18 - 19 July 2001 | Italy | (Genoa) G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting. |
| 5 - 9 October 2001 | Australia | CHOGM (Brisbane). |
| 8 - 9 October 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |
| 29 - 30 October 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

FOREIGN SECRETARY: ALREADY AGREED

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 19 - 20 November 2001 | Luxembourg | GAC. |
| 6 - 7 December 2001 | Belgium | NATO Ministerial. |
| 10 - 11 December 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

FOREIGN SECRETARY: ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| During 2001 | Russia | Tbc. |
| During 2001 | Gulf States | Bilateral. Tbc. Saudi Arabia highest priority. Kuwait and UAE. Early summer or Sep/Oct. |
| During 2001 | Iran | High priority. Twice postponed. After Iranian Presidential elections in May. |
| During 2001 | Latin America | Timing (second half of 2001) and destinations tbc, but probably Mexico, Chile and Argentina. Brazil if PM does not go. |
| During 2001 | Africa | African Partnership Initiative. Command to work up ideas. Complementing a possible visit to the region by the PM. |
| During 2001 | Yugoslavia | The visit should take in Belgrade, Kosovo, Bosnia and possibly Montenegro. Tbc. |
| During 2001 | Switzerland | Foreign Secretary was invited by his Swiss opposite number, Deiss, (during the latter's visit to London in 1999) to visit Switzerland. |
| During 2001 | East Timor | (Dili) Independence day celebrations. Tbc. Could be combined with Indonesia (or other SE Asian country, possibly Vietnam). |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

FOREIGN SECRETARY: ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| During 2001 | Latvia | Tbc. No dates yet. Only two central European countries yet to be visited. |
| | Lithuania | See Latvia above. |
| During 2001 | Czech Republic | Medium priority for some time. |
| During 2001 | Morocco | One day visits on back of summits in Spain and Italy? At bilateral with Moroccan FM (GAC, 9 Oct) FS agreed to visit in 2001 |
| | Tunisia | See above. |
| During 2001 | Italy | Summit. No need to press for this. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| 20 March 2001 | Italy | (Rome) Immigration meetings with Italian, French and German counterparts. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| During Mar 2001 | USA | |
| | Colombia | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|----------------------|----------------|--|
| 9 - 13 November 2001 | Qatar | <i>WTO Ministerial. Tbc.</i> |
| 2nd Half 2001 | USA | <i>Trade policy.</i> |
| | Canada | <i>Trade policy and trade promotion.</i> |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 19 - 22 March 2001 | USA | |
| 26 - 27 March 2001 | Turkey | |
| 18 - 20 June 2001 | Russia | Tbc. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

THE LORD MAYOR

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 8 - 24 April 2001 | Bahamas | City of London trade/investment promotion. Confirmed. |
| | Barbados | |
| | Trinidad & Tobago | |
| | Jamaica | |
| 28 May - 1 June 2001 | USA | |
| 26 - 28 June 2001 | Denmark | Confirmed. |
| 1 - 15 September 2001 | Argentina | City of London trade/investment promotion. |
| | Uruguay | |
| 1 - 15 September 2001 | Chile | |
| 9 - 14 October 2001 | Egypt | City of London trade/investment promotion. Confirmed. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

THE LORD MAYOR

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 20 - 31 October 2001 | Malaysia | City of London trade/investment promotion. Tbc. |
| | Singapore | |
| 20 - 31 October 2001 | Hong Kong | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other FCO Ministers: MR VAZ

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 19 - 20 March 2001 | Belgium | GAC (Brussels). |
| 4 - 5 April 2001 | Turkey | Tbc. |
| 9 - 10 April 2001 | Luxembourg | Bilateral in margins of April GAC. |
| 10 - 11 May 2001 | France | (Strasbourg) Council of Europe Ministerial. Dates Tbc. |
| 3 - 8 June 2001 | Azerbaijan | Trade related. Agreed in principle. |
| | Armenia | |
| | Georgia | |
| 15 - 16 June 2001 | Sweden | European Council (Gothenburg). |
| 2001 | Norway | Bilaterals. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other FCO Ministers: MR WILSON

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 6 - 8 June 2001 | South Africa | (Durban) World E.C. Forum. Tbc. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other FCO Ministers: MR BATTLE

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Jul/Aug 2001 | Peru | Inuaguration of new President (28 July). |
| | Bolivia | |
| | Venezuela | |
| | Ecuador | |
| 31 August - 7 September 2001 | South Africa | (Durban) World Conference Against Racism. |
| Oct/Nov 2001 | Brazil | Tbc. Oct/Nov with Bolivia if omitted in July. |
| During 2001 | Lithuania | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other FCO Ministers: BARONESS SCOTLAND

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| During Apr 2001 | Independent Caribbean Countries | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other DTI Ministers: MR CABORN

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| During Jun 2001 | Japan | |
| During Jun 2001 | Korea | Tbc. w/c 25 June. |
| | China | |
| During Oct 2001 | Egypt | Trade promotion. |
| Oct/Nov 2001 | Australia | |
| During 2001 | Brazil | <i>tbc. If PM does not go</i> |
| | Guyana | |
| During 2001 | Bolivia | Tbc. |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other DTI Ministers: LORD SAINSBURY

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 26 March 2001 | Japan | Trade promotion. |
| During Jun 2001 | Canada | (Montreal), Carnegie Meeting (G8) |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other MOD Ministers: BARONESS SYMONS

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 22 March 2001 | Germany | |
| 19 June 2001 | France | |

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VISITS COMMITTEE: OUTWARD VISITS

Updated Version 14 March

Other MOD Ministers: DR MOONIE

Italics = New information since last meeting

Bold = New bids/suggested priorities

| Date | Country | Priority Notes |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 19 - 21 March 2001 | Switzerland | |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

**Bold = new bids
Italics = other changes**

I. Calls on the Prime Minister

A. Agreed by No 10

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>PM Simitis</i> | <i>Greece</i> | <i>20 Mar 2001</i> | <i>PM</i> | | <i>Dinner at No 10. Confirmed.</i> |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

Bold = new bids

Italics = other changes

I. Calls on the Prime Minister

B. Priorities for 2001

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Prime Minister Stoltenberg | Norway | Mar/Apr? 2001 | PM, Foreign, Def&DTI Secs | 1 | At PM's invitation. <i>Dates still to be agreed.</i> |
| President Kostunica | FR of Yugoslavia | Early 2001 | The Queen, PM, DPM, FS | 1 | First post-Communist, democratically elected President of FRY. Early visit a significant step to restoring bilateral relationship. <i>No 10 considering dates.</i> |
| President Mbeki | South Africa | 12-14 Jun 2001 | The Queen, PM | 1 | State Visit. |
| President Mesic | Croatia | Sum/Aut 2001 | The Queen, POW, PM, DPM, FS etc. | 1 | Guest of Government. <i>For presentational reasons, firm dates to be offered before Kostunica visits. Command to pursue with No 10.</i> |
| President Mubarak | Egypt | 2001 | The Queen, PM | 1 | Guest of Government 'plus'. Put back from Oct 2000 (at Egyptian request). Awaiting new dates from the Egyptians – no hurry on our side. |
| President Kim Dae-Jung | Korea | 2 nd half 2001 | The Queen, PM | 1 | Guest of Government. Proposed by British Trade International. |
| President Kucan | Slovenia | 2 nd half 2001 | PM | 2 | Guest of Government. Slovenes awaiting dates from us. No 10 will renew efforts to find dates for second half of year. |
| President Adamkus | Lithuania | 2 nd half 2001 | PM | 2 | Guest of Government. An unfulfilled expectation which needs to be addressed (only Baltic President not to have visited). No 10 will renew efforts to find dates for second half of year. |
| President Stoyanov | Bulgaria | 2 nd half 2001 | The Queen, PM Foreign, Def & DTI Ss | 2 | Demonstrate UK support for strong reformist leader. No 10 will review dates for second half of year. |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

Bold = new bids

Italics = other changes

I. Calls on the Prime Minister -Priorities for 2001 (continued)

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| President Sampaio | Portugal | Jun 2001 | The Queen, PM | 2 | Guest of Government. Last State Visit in 1993. Informal visit suggested by the PUS in Jun 2000. <i>Reply awaited from No 10.</i> |
| President Ahmet Necdet Sezer | Turkey | 2 nd half 2001 | The Queen, PM, Foreign &Def Secs | 2 | Proposed Guest of Government. Committee consider 2 nd half of year more realistic timing. <i>Command to put forward dates to No 10.</i> |
| PM Meta | Albania | 2 nd half 2001 | PM | 2 | Short meeting at No 10 with PM drop-in. Committee agreed to upgrade to priority 2 (28 Nov 00). |
| President Lagos | Chile | 12/13 Sep 2001 | The Queen, PM | 2 | Guest of Government. <i>Dates to be confirmed.</i> |
| President Chavez | Venezuela | Late 2001 | PM, Foreign&DTI Secs | 2 | First visit as President. |
| President Batlle | Uruguay | 2002 | The Queen, PM, Foreign&Def Secs | 2 | Guest of Government. Formal invitation yet to issue. |
| Prime Minister El Youssoufi | Morocco | Autumn 2001 | PM, PoW, FS | 2 | Guest of Government. Up-graded to priority 2 in view of postponment of King Mohamed's visit. |
| President Kufuor | Ghana | Late 2001 | The Queen, PM, Foreign&DFID Secs | 2 | Newly-elected President's first visit to UK. Demonstrate support for successful and democratic transition of power. Command to write to No 10 idc proposing dates. |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

**Bold = new bids
Italics = other changes**

I. Calls on the Prime Minister

B Priorities for 2001 (continued)

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>President Mejia</i> | <i>Dominican Republic</i> | <i>22-23 May 2001</i> | <i>PM</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>Agreed out of committee. Photocall. No 10 will consider nearer the time.</i> |
| President Kuchma | Ukraine | 2001 | PM | 3 | Downgraded to 3 (25 Jan 01) in view of dubious human rights performance. |
| President Lahoud | Lebanon | 2001 | PM | 3 | Review when there are firm dates (from the Lebanese). |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

**Bold = new bids
Italics = other changes**

II. Calls on the Deputy Prime Minister

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Vice President Marco Maciel | Brazil | During 2001 | DPM, Foreign Sec | 1 | Guest of Government. DPM's invitation during March 2000 visit. Dates still to be decided. |
| President Kostunica | Yugoslavia | 1 st qtr 2001 | PM, DPM, FS etc | 1 | See PM above. |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

Bold = new bids

Italics = other changes

III. Calls on the Foreign Secretary (where PM not involved)

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Foreign Minister</i> | <i>Argentina</i> | <i>7/8 Jun 2001</i> | <i>FS</i> | | <i>Talks and lunch in London.</i> |
| Foreign Minister | Croatia | 2001 | FS | | Tbc. |
| Foreign Minister | Ukraine | 2001 | FS | | Guest of Government. Dates to be decided. |

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**VISITS COMMITTEE
INWARD VISITS
UP-DATE AS AT 14 MARCH 2001**

**Bold = new bids
Italics = other changes**

IV. Other Inward Calls

| Name/Title | Country | Date | Calling on | Priority | Notes |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Solicitor General | Canada | 26 Mar 2001 | Home Secretary | | |
| Interior Minister | Denmark | 27 Mar 2001 | Home Secretary | | |
| S of S Social Affairs and Employment | Netherlands | Tbc | Min for Women | | |

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

File Be A T or
~~FAKE~~
JP

From the Private Secretary

2 March 2001

Dear Sir Colin,

In Michael Tatham's absence, Jonathan Powell asked me to get back to you in response to your note of 26 February.

As you may already know, Minister Papantoniou now has a confirmed call on the Chancellor early next week. We looked very hard at whether we could also find an opportunity for the Prime Minister to see Papantoniou. On this occasion, with all the other current pressures, it has simply proved impossible. But the Prime Minister will be having dinner with Simitis on 20 March, and if you have any thoughts on points he might raise then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Jonathan or Michael (who returns next week).

Yours sincerely,

Anna Wechsberg

ANNA WECHSBERG

Sir Colin Chandler
Chairman, Vickers Defence Systems

From: Anne Shevas
Date: 27 February 2001

PRIME MINISTER
MRS BLAIR

cc Alastair Campbell
Fiona Millar
Kate Garvey

SUNDAY PEOPLE: KIRSTY HOWARD CAMPAIGN

Four year-old Kirsty Howard is visiting Downing Street on Wednesday afternoon to meet you both as part of her campaign to raise money for a hospice for sick children who cannot be helped by medical science.

Kirsty is a very sick child who was born with her heart the wrong way round and she was not expected to live to have her fourth birthday. The Sunday People have featured her since 1999 and will be running another feature on her this Sunday. Alastair agreed to a photograph following a request from the editor Neil Wallis.

Photographer Martin Spaven and features editor Rachael Bletchly will accompany Kirsty and her parents Steven and Lynn. The Hospice co-ordinator Susie Mathis will also be in the group. The party will be given a tour of the building, which will end in the White Room with tea, biscuits and a chat with you at 1730 hours.

Kirsty is very frail and uses a motorised wheelchair. She is also permanently attached to an oxygen cylinder. Arrangements have been made for the ramp and the stairlift to be available. I attach a selection of cuttings from the Sunday People relating to Kirsty and her campaign.



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and dogs.
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FOR LOVE OF KIRSTY

Showbiz stars back dying tot's Diana hospice plea



DONATION: Mick



PLEDGE: Sue



SUPPORT: Alex



INSPIRATION: Kirsty - who has only weeks to live - inspired an army of stars and readers Picture: ANDY KELVIN



BACKING: Steve



VITAL: Michael



CONCERN: Andrea

An incredible galaxy of top stars have pledged support for the Sunday People "Kirsty" Campaign to save Princess Diana's favourite children's hospice.

Last week we showed you the brave angelic smile of dying toddler Kirsty Howard as she fronted the campaign for vital funding.

Now celebrities from every field have backed the appeal to raise £5 million to stop the closure of Francis House in Manchester - which was opened by Diana.

And our army of big-hearted readers has swamped The Rainbow Millennium Fund with scores of donations to get the campaign off to a flying start.

Manchester United boss ALEX FERGUSON has backed the hospice for the past 12 years. He said: "Myself and all the boys will continue our support."

Simply Red star MICK HUCKNALL threw his weight behind the cause. "Anything to help ill kids is a brilliant idea," he said.

Comedian STEVE COOGAN - whose mum knows the hospice administrator Sister Aloysius said: "For me to add my voice to that campaign is a pleasure."

Former Monty Python actor MICHAEL PALIN joined the campaign, saying the work of hospices was "absolutely vital".

Irish band THE CORRS were



Our story last week

FOR THE LOVE OF A SON...

AMONG the letters we received was one from a mum still grieving for her son who would have been 21 this year.

Mrs Janet Mitson - who gave £15 towards the appeal - wrote: "Every year on the anniversary of our little son's death from heart problems we have put an announcement in the local newspaper.

"This year was the 21st and we felt the money would be better spent supporting a children's charity. What better way to honour our son than to make a small donation to your appeal."

EXCLUSIVE By PASCALE PALMER

quick to express their support. Andrea Corr said: "Children deserve the best in life whatever their circumstances."

Rock star BILL WYMAN who has already raised £20,000 said: "Please help as much as you can."

Middlesbrough soccer boss BRYAN ROBSON and Royle Family actress SUE JOHNSTON, pledged their help.

And BILL TARMEY who plays Coronation Street's Jack Duckworth dressed up as a postman to cheer up the children at Francis House when he delivered hundreds of letters of support. Other Corrie backers included BRUCE JONES

(Les Battersby) and JACQUI PIRIE (Linda Sykes). Comedian BERNARD MANNING also offered "buckets of support".

Soap star LISA RILEY, who plays Mandy Dingle in Emmerdale, said: "Please give as much money and support as you possibly can. You can see from Kirsty's picture just how important a hospice like Francis House really is."

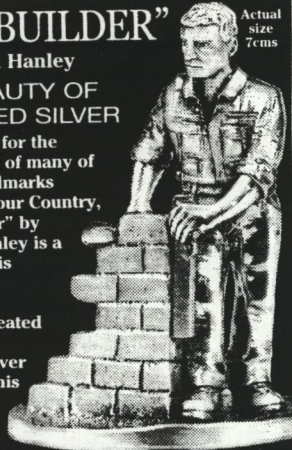
Further backing came from Capital Radio presenter TONY BLACKBURN, comic CRAIG CHARLES, Status Quo rocker RICK PARFITT and singer ALED JONES.

Fund co-ordinator Susie Mathis said: "We hope that people will now become aware of our fight. Francis House is full of special, inspirational children who need the care we give them. Closure would be a disaster."

"THE BUILDER"

by Richard Hanley
THE BEAUTY OF
ANTIQUED SILVER

Responsible for the construction of many of the fine landmarks throughout our Country, "The Builder" by Richard Hanley is a tribute to this honourable profession. Carefully created in polished antiqued Silver on Pewter this outstanding fine art miniature is a unique collector's piece only available direct from our foundry.



English Miniatures
Fine Art Sculpture

To receive "The Builder" by Richard Hanley at the special collectors price of only £19.50 plus £1.75 p&p just phone our 24 hour order line 01420 590390 or send the coupon to English Miniatures, 3 Grove Park, Mill Lane, Alton, Hants GU34 2QG.

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

To: English Miniatures Please send me "The Builder". I agree to pay the special price of £19.50 plus £1.75 p&p or return the piece within 7 days.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)
Address

Postcode
Reg No 1199855

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

To make a donation, phone the appeal hotline free on 08000 971197 - or send a cheque, made payable to The Rainbow Millennium Fund, to Rainbow Appeal, The Sunday People, 1, Canada Square, London, E14 5AP. Also write and tell us about any IDEAS YOU have to raise cash.

DI'S LITTLE ANGEL

Kirsty launches £5 million battle to save Princess's hospice... before the fight is over she will be dead



CARING: Di opened hospice
By RACHAEL BLETCHLY
and DIANA MCCARTHY

SHE has the face of an angel – and soon it will be seen by millions around Britain.

Little Kirsty Howard's mile-wide smile will beam down from posters nationwide as she spearheads a £5million fund-raising campaign to save a children's hospice opened by Princess Diana.

But tragically, before her beautiful picture captures enough hearts and opens enough wallets to raise the vital cash, Kirsty will be dead.

For the brave four-year-old has a heart disease so rare it doesn't have a name and she has just weeks to live.

Her parents Lynn and Stephen have courageously agreed to let Kirsty front the appeal – backed by the Sunday People with a £1,000 donation – in a bid to help other tragic children who will never grow up.

Brave

Proud Lynn, 34, of Northern Moor, Manchester, said: "Kirsty is a little ray of light. She is beautiful and brave and never complains and has enriched the lives of everyone who knows her.

"We hope that through the campaign she will touch other hearts and help raise money to help the hospice open.

"We know our little girl may be dead before people get to know her face on the posters and it breaks my heart to think of losing her.

"But if Kirsty can help other children after her death it will be a wonderful tribute."

Kirsty – who is a Manchester United fan because "my favourite colour is red" – will be the figurehead for Francis House Hospice in Didsbury, Manchester, where she has been cared for with other terminally-ill children.

The seven-bed centre, opened by Princess Diana in 1991,



BRAVE SMILE: Tragic Kirsty is to appear on posters appealing for cash to save other lives

Picture: ANDY KELVIN

costs £1.3 million a year to run but gets just £52,000 in grants. It will close unless it raises the vital cash.

Kirsty was born with her heart back to front and with one, instead of two pumping chambers. She also has abnormal blood vessels in her lungs.

Her condition affects just ONE IN 60 MILLION children and the only other known sufferer is a child in Australia.

After nine operations, surgeons can do nothing else to

help Kirsty and she is slowly wasting away at the hospice, surrounded by her family and loving staff. Further surgery would kill her.

Kirsty celebrated her fourth birthday last week with a party at the hospice.

It was a milestone her family did not expect to reach – and one they know marks the end of the road in Kirsty's brave fight.

Lynn, dad Stephen, 43, and sisters Zoe, 10, and Kim, seven, fought back tears as they watched Kirsty open her

presents and hug a huge soft Barney the Dinosaur toy – her favourite cartoon character.

Kirsty weighs just 24 pounds and hasn't eaten a full meal for weeks – yet managed a tiny triangle of sandwich at her birthday tea.

But mum Lynn wept in a corner as she watched. She said: "It breaks my heart to think I'll never see her grow up. Every minute is so precious.

Truck driver Stephen said: "We get by as best we can and every day is a blessing. She loves

watching Barney the Dinosaur cartoons and listening to her favourite group Steps and she says she supports Manchester United because her favourite colour is red.

"She loves the Teletubbies too – especially Po because he's red."

Fund co-ordinator Susie Mathis said: "We hope Kirsty's lovely little face touches the public's hearts enough to respond to the hospice's plight.

"She is a truly inspirational child."



VICTIM: Anne rob

Anne gen grabbed Palace th

By MIKE JARV

PRECIOUS treasure tens of thousands of p has been stolen Buckingham Palace.

Princess Anne's p office in the Palace rifled and a gem-enc necklace was taken.

A much-loved Ol tiepin presented to her 1976 Montreal Game a canteen of solid cutlery also disappea And a cabinet fi vintage wines and exp spirits was emptied.

Elsewhere in the f fashion garments fro world's top designers plundered from ward

And a beautiful orn given to the Queen state visit is believed to been nicked.

Furious

Last night the C was said to be "furiou the robbery despi £250,000 security sys

Detectives suspec systematic ransackin: an inside job and interviewing all 850 st the Palace.

The thefts are belie have taken place several days. One the that a trusted lone me of staff is responsible

The crook was care take things which wou be immediately misse

The crime was onl covered when a routi venty of valu revealed missing item

A Scotland spokesman said: "I are investigating the a theft of items fro office at Buckin Palace."

FUNNY

JAMES Duggan, 59 moving from his sen Penarth, South W because it's too smal his collection of 600 m penguins.

PEOP

The end of Trude lov

TEARFUL TV vet T Mostue has admitted hectic career wrecked love affair with comp executive Patrick Eva

The BBC Vets In P tice star says: "I've ha many commitments it w fair to drag anyone else my life. It was a m decision to call it a da

The couple failed to s one weekend together y Norwegian Trude, filmed in Africa for her series Vets In The Wi

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

To make a donation, phone the appeal hotline free on 08000 971197 – or send a cheque, made payable to The Rainbow Millennium Fund, to Rainbow Appeal, The Sunday People, 1, Canada Square, London, E14 5AP. Also write and tell us about any ideas YOU may have to raise cash.

DON'T FORGET FOLKS, THE PEOPLE IS BACK AGAIN ON BOXING DAY!

The Christmas brave Kirsty thought she'd never see..



LITTLE Kirsty Howard is the Christmas angel we all desperately wanted to see standing by her tree.

For the tot - who spearheaded the Sunday People's "Kirsty Campaign" and helped raise £500,000 to save Princess Diana's favourite hospice - was given just 12 weeks to live EIGHT months ago.

As the smiling four-year-old popped her Santa hat and wrapped tinsel round her neck, her mum Lynn said:

By DIANA McCARTHY

"Every day she is with us is a bonus. We are going to make this the best Christmas ever because we never dared believe that we would all see it together."

Lynn, 34 and her husband Stephen, 43, are now longing to see Kirsty open her Christmas presents with her sisters Zoe, 10, and seven-year-old Kim.

Stephen, 43, a fork-lift truck driver, said: "We wouldn't tempt fate and waited until a few days ago to buy her gifts. Now we are hoping that we may

even see in the Millennium as a family and Kirsty will certainly be able to stay up past midnight."

Kirsty's parents were told in April that she had born with her heart back to front and nothing could be done to save her life.

Lynn - watching Kirsty hang baubles on the tree at their home in Northern Moor, Manchester - added: "No one thought she would be here decorating our tree but she is a real fighter and has proved them all wrong."

Celebrities galore backed our appeal

to save Francis House Hospice in Manchester including Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed. Thanks to them and generous Sunday People readers we have raised £136,000.

Fund co-ordinator and ex-DJ Susie Mathis said: "We thank you all. It is marvellous but Kirsty is truly an inspirational child."

Keep the cash coming. Phone free on 08000 971197 or send a cheque payable to The Rainbow Millennium Fund, to Kirsty Campaign, Sunday People, 1 Canada Square, London, E14 5AP.



DI'S LITTLE ANGEL
Kirsty launched £5 million battle to save Princess Diana's favourite hospice... before the flight is over she will be done
HOW YOU CAN HELP PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL O'NEILL

We launched campaign

Breast assured, Bill!

DAD Bill Pritchard will be the family outsider on Christmas Morning. He'll BARBECUE the turkey in his garden in case his cooker conks out. It packed up on the 25th last year AND the year before. Bill, 45, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, said: "I'm taking no chances."

CHRISTMAS

Q. What's worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?
A. A centipede with sore feet.

CRACKERS

Westlife, Cliff strife

BOY band Westlife have knocked Sir Cliff Richard's controversial Millennium Prayer from the top of the singles chart - to become the new Christmas No1 with I Have A Dream/Seasons In The Sun.

See Hot People - Page 15

CHRISTMAS

Q. Which is the strongest day in the week?
A. Sunday - all the rest are weekdays.

CRACKERS

Ben's out on his ass!

BEN the donkey has had to be dropped from a nativity play staged by an amateur drama group in Taunton, Somerset.

On the first night Ben fell into the front row - and after that he adopted a dog-in-the-manger attitude and refused to go on stage at all.

ROYAL
 £100m
 stay on
 land

NIGEL NELSON

THE most famous
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Catastrophic

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 id he added: "Labour
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FASTER

FOOTBALLER was
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FUNNY

**House this
 or a gaffe**

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 S firm Harmon
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 ild be given the contract.

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OLLECTOR Angela
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 set but never uses them
 she is allergic to eggs.

DI'S LITTLE ANGEL IS STILL ALIVE...THE MOST HEART-WARMING

Little Kirsty doesn't know you talk of death to a girl



EXCLUSIVE
 By RACHAEL BLETCHLY

LITTLE Kirsty Howard clutches an Easter egg and flowers in a heart-warming picture nobody ever expected to see - least of all her parents.

Because more than a year ago the brave four-year-old was given less than two months to live.

Her story touched your hearts and Kirsty became a symbol of courage as she spear-headed the Sunday People's campaign to save Princess Diana's favourite hospice for sick and dying children from closure.

This week as Kirsty happily looked forward to eating her Easter eggs today, mum Lynn said: "We never dreamed she would still be with us. We just take every day as a little miracle and treasure the extra time we have with her."

FAST FACT
 ● DOCTORS carried out 264 heart swap ops in the UK last year.

"She made it past her fourth birthday in September despite our worst fears. We were so grateful to see her celebrate Christmas. It was marvellous to see in the new Millennium and then I got the Mothers' Day kiss I never expected to receive.

"Now she's even started school. Watching her open her Easter eggs will feel like the latest in a string of miracles. She loves her life and is too busy living every moment to let go yet - she's a great big fighter."

Inspiring

But the battle is one she is doomed to lose. For she was born with her heart back to front - a 60 million-to-one condition so rare it has not even got a name. And she is too weak to survive a transplant.

Yet Kirsty is helping win a vital battle on behalf of others - to rescue the hospice.

Francis House in Didsbury, Manchester, needs £5 million - and they are well on their way to their first million. Our Kirsty campaign, backed by big-hearted readers and a host of stars, has raised almost £140,000 of that, including huge donations from Mohamed Al Fayed.

Proud Lynn said: "That's going to be her legacy. If the hospice can continue when Kirsty has gone, part of her will live on."

Watching Kirsty, it was easy to see just why she's captured the nation's heart. Here is one of the most inspiring and heart-warming Easter stories you will ever read.

The angel-faced toddler doesn't know she is dying. Her heart-broken mum and dad could never find a way to tell her.

But she can sense when people tip-toe round the subject and explains with a touching, childish directness: "I need a new heart and lungs - but I can't have them."

Mother of three Lynn, 34, said: "That gets to me every time. But we aren't going to try to explain dying to a daughter so full of life.

"In February 1999 the doctors warned us she had just eight weeks to live. Yet here we are more than seven times further on with no clear reason why. It has to be pure will-power. Kirsty is such a happy, positive



KID COURAGE: Happy Kirsty guards her Easter egg, flowers and cuddly bunny

Picture: ANDY KELVIN

STORY OF LOVE YOU WILL READ THIS EASTER...

she's dying. How can who is so full of life?

child. Every extra day we have is fantastic." After nine operations surgeons can do nothing else to help Kirsty. Her hands are unbelievably tiny, but there's glitter varnish on her nails.

For even though she's fading physically - she now tips the scales at a mere 1st 6lb - the doll-like child's personality is as huge as ever.

She whizzes round in an electric wheelchair because she's getting too weak to walk far. Strapped to the back is one of the six, 35lb oxygen tanks she gets through every day.

Oxygen and feeding tubes in her nose are stuck to her face. But she can still enjoy a few of her favourite prawn cocktail crisps or one of the many Easter eggs she's hoarding. Last week she and her family spent their usual one week in four at Francis House before returning to their home in Northern Moor, Manchester for Easter.

Dad Stephen, 43, mum Lynn and her sisters Zoe, 10, and Kim, eight, all stay with her in the hospice opened by Diana in 1991. It provides a haven for 150 dying and desperately ill kiddies every year.

But it costs £1.3 million a year to run and gets just £52,000 in grants. That's why



CHARMER: How we broke the story

Kirsty's parents agreed to let her front a fund-raising campaign.

Kirsty said proudly: "I'm making money for Francis House," then quickly added: "I've opened four Easter eggs already and I've got some more too. I go to school now and I'm going three days after Easter."

She is also delighted with her new garden. Local workmen have turned the family's back yard into a child's paradise with fountains, flower beds and murals of her favourite TV characters Barney the

Dinosaur and the Teletubbies. Kirsty gets covered in glitter and glue as she makes two Easter cards - for Royle Family actress Sue Johnston, a close friend, and appeal fund co-ordinator Susie Mathis, a former DJ.

Stars who back the campaign include Bill Wyman, Steve Coogan, The Corrs, Mick Hucknall, Sir Alex Ferguson and the entire Man United football team.

Lynn said: "We've learned not to look too far ahead. We just live every day to the full like Kirsty does. We are so proud of her."

Sister Aloysius, the nun who runs the hospice, said: "The Sunday People and its readers are doing a marvellous job for us. We are so grateful. Kirsty has great courage and a miraculous inner strength. It is very humbling and inspiring."

● To make a donation ring the appeal hotline on 08000 971197 or send a cheque payable to The Rainbow Millennium Fund to Rainbow Appeal, The Sunday People, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5AP.

● PeopleHOTlinks
r.bletchly@people.co.uk
For more info on Francis House
www.francishousechildshospice.co.uk

VIAGRA A LI THE

By

VIAGRA is coming of approval from The sex wonder Queen's Award for mark in British royal emblem of packaging, advertisement stationery.

Bosses will even to fly a special f their office premi

Her Majesty pi the company for t standing achieve growth.


Pfizer boosted ternational trade v seas earnings whic £700 million - over a third on t figures.

An industry so "Pfizer's success ing and they d everyone is thrill

Past winners award include Bri space, Motorola Research.

Hot cross

WHEN cook V lost her wedding hot cross bun m Easter fair in Ok Devon, her hubb a metal detector

Think of it as a  THANK YOU



SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning
12 mg Tar 0.8 mg Nicotine

Jails alert over 7 mini-guns

BRITISH guards have been ordered to watch for James Bond-style mini-guns – which look like key rings – being smuggled into jails.

The tiny weapons have already been sneaked into American prisons.

And now Britain's prison officers are worried they could arrive here.

A prison spokesman said: "Like many key rings these test weapons have a cylinder attached to the ring."

"But all the gunman has to do is pull back the end of the ring to fire."

"There have been no cases of the mini-gun being used in this country yet – it is not used in the United States. Prison visitors must be subject to the strictest security checks."

FUNNY

OLY-POLY thief Pedro Ardon, 45, was cut free by Madrid firemen after getting stuck in a dog flap as he fled the house he was burgling.

PEOPLE

A hitch in mine

SIXTY workers Geoff Williams, 31, and Catherine Ferris, 32, got married yesterday at their workplace. They were 1,000 FEET down the old Mine near Helston, Cornwall.



MILE-WIDE SMILE: Kirsty after her op. Picture: CAVENDISH PRESS

OP, OP... AND AWAY KIRSTY

Brave tot bounces back after hospital ordeal

THE EYES are twinkling and that beautiful beaming smile is back as big as ever.

Amazing little Kirsty Howard put on her usual cheerful face – just three hours after a critical operation.

The battling toddler, who is spearheading our campaign to rescue Princess Diana's favourite hospice, underwent exploratory surgery to see if a transplant could save her life.

For Kirsty, it was just another gruelling milestone in the constant fight that began when she was born with a back-to-front heart.

And, as usual, the plucky four-year-old, who was given just months to live a year ago, took it all in her stride.

She bounced straight back after the op at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and sat up in bed playing cards

EXCLUSIVE

By RACHAEL BLETCHLY

with her sisters Zoe and Kim. Dad Stephen, 43, of Northern Moor, Manchester, said: "She's amazing – she even managed to cheat a bit so she couldn't have been feeling too bad!"

"But she did get a bit sulky when she wasn't allowed to get off her bed to play."

The five-hour op – the NINTH since she was born – revealed that Kirsty needs a heart and lung transplant.

Stephen and Kirsty's mum Lynn had to decide whether the exploration should go ahead – not knowing if she'd survive.

Stephen said: "It's fantastic that she has come through it so well but the results were not what we were hoping for."

"The operation was to see if Kirsty needed a heart transplant or a heart AND lung transplant. Unfortunately, the surgery

revealed that her left lung will also need replacing. It is unlikely Kirsty will make a good candidate for a transplant."

Now the family will consult with doctors over the next step.

Kirsty has been the inspiration for the campaign to save Francis House in Manchester – the hospice that won the affection of Princess Di.

Our caring readers, along with showbiz stars and Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed have raised more than £141,000 and pushed the appeal total to £689,000.

The hospice needs £5 million to secure its future.

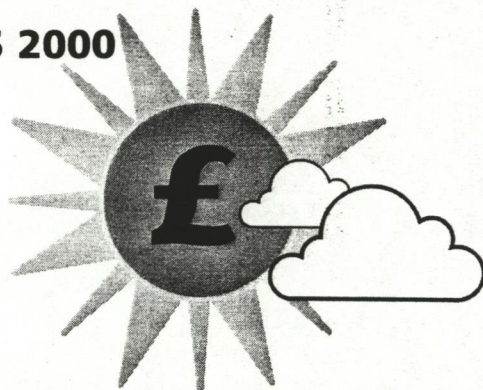
● To make a donation call 08000 971197 or send a cheque payable to the Rainbow Millennium Fund to: Rainbow Appeal, The Sunday People, London E145AP.

PeopleHOTlinks

r.bletchly@people.co.uk
Details on Francis House:
www.franchishouse.co.uk

WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS 2000

Help towards a warmer winter



This year, Winter Fuel Payments will be available once more to help you with your winter heating bills.

PAYMENTS FOR THIS WINTER

If you have received a Winter Fuel Payment in the past, and your benefit circumstances haven't changed, don't worry because you do not need to do anything. You should automatically get a payment for this winter before Christmas. This year the Government is increasing the Winter Fuel Payment to £150 per eligible household.

If you are aged 60 or over and already receive or expect to be receiving a state retirement pension or social security benefit* between 18-24 September 2000, you should automatically get your Winter Fuel Payment before Christmas 2000.

If you are aged 60 or over and have never received a Winter Fuel Payment and do not expect to be receiving a state retirement pension or social security benefit* between 18-24 September 2000 you may qualify for a payment this winter. If you have not yet received your claim form in the post, please fill in the coupon and return it to us as soon as possible to make sure you don't miss out.

*Excluding Child Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit.

PAYMENTS FOR PAST WINTERS

If you have not yet received a claim form through the post and you were aged 60 or over in the weeks:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 20-26 September 1999 | for winter 99/00 |
| 9-15 November 1998 | for winter 98/99 |
| 5-11 January 1998 | for winter 97/98 |

you may be entitled to a payment for past winters. To get a claim form (which will also explain some exemptions) simply fill in the coupon below and return it to us.

Alternatively, please call the Winter Fuel Payments Helpline on 08459 15 15 15 (textphone 01325 745136) to get your claim form. If you have internet access you can also download a claim form by visiting www.dss.gov.uk

Winter Fuel Payments apply to those people who, during the qualifying weeks, are aged 60 or over and ordinarily resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. (There are a few exemptions).

COUPON TO REQUEST A CLAIM FORM FOR THIS COMING WINTER AND PREVIOUS WINTERS

Title _____ First Name _____ Surname _____ Telephone No. _____ DOB _____
Address _____ National Insurance Number _____
Postcode _____ Return to: Winter Fuels, Freepost, Darlington, DL3 9ZQ.



benefits
ba
agency

Dome boss lined up for Tussauds

EXCLUSIVE by NIGEL NELSON

THE Millennium Dome's French boss is being lined up for a new job...running Madame Tussauds and Alton Towers.

Pierre Yves Gerbeau, 34, is tipped to take over the £360million Tussauds Group which runs Britain's largest private leisure attractions.

M Gerbeau - PY to Dome staff - wants to stay in Britain when his £100,000 contract runs out at the end of the year.

An insider said: "Despite all the flak about the Dome, PY did a great job in impossible circumstances."

An insider said: "Despite all the flak about the Dome, PY did a great job in impossible circumstances."

FUNNY

LOVING Darren Thompson, 54, of Southampton, saw his old Mini in a scrapyard - and bought the back seat where he courted wife Paula.

PEOPLE

Heather: Man on murder rap

A MAN appeared in court yesterday charged with the murder of dance student Heather Tell.

Michael Chidgey, 44, of Tamworth, Staffs was remanded in custody by Burton-Upon-Trent magistrates until October 12.

Heather, 17, was strangled as she walked to meet a friend on August 25.



PARTY GIRL: Little Kirsty with Sue (Ma Royle) Pictures: CAVENDISH PRESS

KIRSTY IS BELLE OF THE BALL

Brave tot's Royle treat

BRAVE heart girl Kirsty Howard outshone all the stars at her glittering birthday party.

TV's The Royle Family actors Sue Johnston and Ricky Tomlinson joined Princess Diana's butler Paul Burrell to pay tribute to the tot who defied the odds just to be there.

The bash raised £20,000 for our appeal to save the cash-strapped Manchester kiddies hospice that cares for Kirsty, who was born with a back-to-

front heart. Other famous names at the party included Brookside stars Claire Sweeney and Michael Starke.

Back at home Kirsty was having fun playing in a special Wendy house, generously donated by top firm Argos to mark her fifth birthday.

To make a donation, ring 08000 971197 or send a cheque payable to the Rainbow Millennium Fund to Rainbow Appeal, The Sunday People, PO Box 6867, London E14 5AN.



STAR TURN: Kirsty with Sue, Claire, Ricky and Michael

Pink lip clue to in doo

THE bizarre party-goer who covered in pig baffling police Bachelor R 30, also had his into a crude M when he was f a doorway.

Detectives victim had be house party b

His body dragged to th Oakfield C community ce bran, South 1

But a post n far failed to deat

A police spe "His clothe stripped off be suits were w

body in lipstick dragged to th

"This is the I have ever in

FUNNY

SPACE n Thomas, 48, Devon, has f "hot-spot" M hope of being aliens.

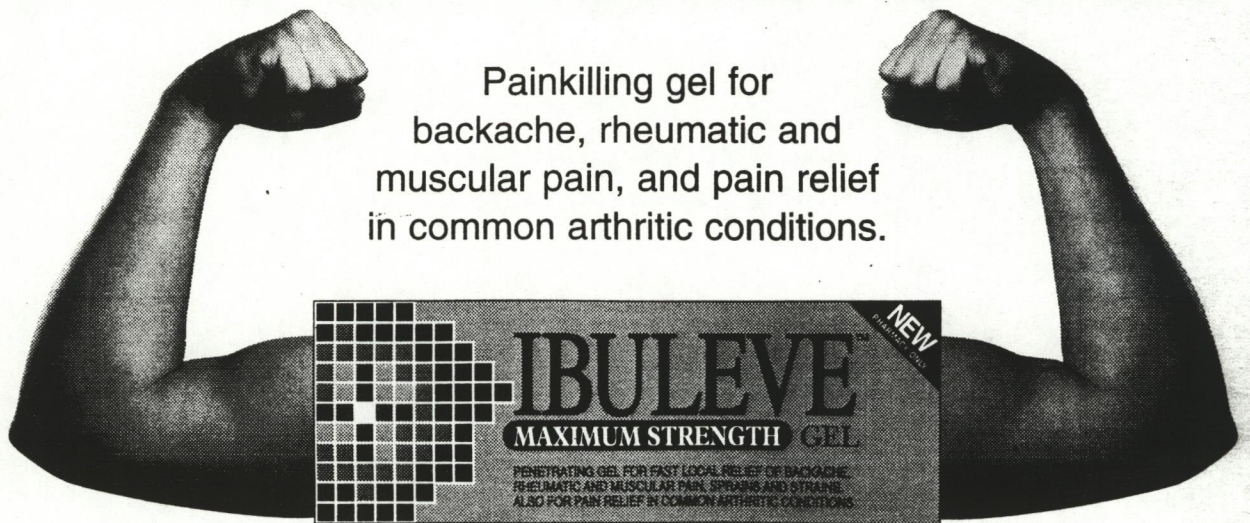
Birdlife mass w

THE world population i biggest ever i staggering 12 species in extinction, report.

Now Birdl tional has coe cue package t effects of pest destruction of

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LOVER IS RED-HOT SAYS EX



TORY THREAT TO DYING CHILDREN

HEARTLESS Tories will rob children's hospices and kids with cancer of millions of pounds if they come to power.

Culture Secretary Chris Smith has earmarked up to £150 million of lottery money to help fund hospices and cancer care next year.

But if Tory leader William Hague wins the May election he will callously abandon the plan and deprive these essential services of the cash they desperately need.

That would deal a severe blow to the Sunday People's efforts to save one cash-strapped hospice - a campaign fronted by little Kirsty Howard who has a terminal heart condition.

So far the five-year-old has raised more than £776,000 for the Francis House hospice in Manchester - £165,000 of which has come from caring Sunday People readers.

The Government says funding cuts would

EXCLUSIVE by NIGEL NELSON

condemn Britain's sickest children to unnecessary heartache.

Mr Smith said yesterday: "We know the Tories don't want to spend this lottery money. So we must assume they will scrap these vital programmes."

The lottery cash is to be handed out by the New Opportunities Fund set up by Labour two years ago.

But shadow Culture Secretary Peter Ainsworth said that health is one of the "things that shouldn't be funded by the lottery".

Death crash bus driver held

A BUS driver was arrested after a woman was knocked down and killed as she waited at a bus stop yesterday. Julie Sykes, 41, of Little Lever, Greater Manchester, was hit by the 34-seater bus in the early hours. The driver was bailed pending further inquiries.

EXCLUSIVE!

**NOKIA 7110
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NOW VINNIE'S GOT A TOUCH OF THE BECKS

EXCLUSIVE by EMMA BUSSEY

HARDMAN Vinnie Jones has revealed how he is in the grip of bizarre obsessions like those that took over fellow soccer ace David Beckham's life.

The bad-boy footballer turned movie star has fallen foul of obsessive compulsive disorder. He admitted he CAN'T SLEEP until he's sure not one leaf is floating on his swimming pool.

He KEEPS his shirts in colour co-ordinated order and feels ANGRY if furniture is an inch out of place.

Vinnie, 35, said: "I can't go to bed until everything is spotless and in its place."

Last month we revealed how Beckham's pals were worried at his obsession with tidiness rituals. Vinnie, who has a £2million Hollywood mansion, said: "I feel sorry for David because



TIDY: Star Vinnie

he is going through what I suffer from."

The footballer - who has just released a video called Vinnie's Revenge - said: "It calms me knowing there is no grime and no disorder. "It makes me feel in control."

CHRISTMAS

Q What is grey and has four legs and a trunk?
A. A mouse going on holiday.

CHRISTMAS

Q What did the traffic light say to the zebra crossing?
A. Don't look now I'm changing.

CRACKERS

CRACKERS

A HAPPY KIRSTMAS

Brave angel gets Al Fayed gift for tragic kiddies

By RACHAEL BLETCHLY

LITTLE angel Kirsty Howard gave Santa a cuddle - and earned a Christmas miracle for dozens of desperately ill children.

The brave five-year-old, who is dying from a rare heart condition, whispered a request for help for a threatened kiddies' hospice.

And her wish was granted by generous Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed - who pledged an incredible £60,000 A YEAR to keep Manchester's Francis House running.

Kirsty, who spearheads the Sunday People's £1million fund-raising campaign for the hospice, fittingly dressed up in an angel outfit when she met Santa in his grotto at Mr Al Fayed's London store.

The tycoon - who last year donated £120,000 to the Kirsty hospice appeal -



SMILES: Kirsty hugs Mr Al Fayed

said: "She is an absolute Angel and has already worked miracles for Francis House. It is a very special place. I told Kirsty I will give £5,000 each month for as long as it is needed."

Kirsty has already helped raise £779,000 - with £165,000 coming from big-hearted Sunday People readers. The youngster was born with her heart back to front, a

condition that affects just one child in 60 million. She has had nine operations and is constantly linked to oxygen.

Doctors feared she would not make it to LAST Christmas. But her courage and her determination to help Francis House have kept her going.

Proud parents Steve and Lynn, of Northern Moor, Manchester, saw Mr Al Fayed hand Kirsty gifts for her two sisters. Lynn wiped away tears as her daughter hugged and kissed the tycoon.

She said: "We don't know how long we still have with her, so memories like this are very special."

The hospice, opened by Princess Diana in 1991, needs £1.3million a year to help 150 dying and desperately ill kiddies.

● TO make a donation to Kirsty's appeal call the hotline on 08000 971197 or send a cheque, payable to The Rainbow Millennium Fund, to Rainbow Appeal, PO BOX 6867, London E14 5AN.

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*200 minutes of off-peak calls are available on Budweiser tariff at £9.99 per month with £1.99 per month mandatory itemised billing. ** £100 chequeback is by redemption, £50 after 6 months and £50 after 18 months. †When you connect to BT Cellnet. All mobile connections are subject to status.



ANGEL'S DELIGHT: Kirsty cuddles up to Santa in the grotto at Harrods Pictures: MARTIN SPAVEN

Stores face festive ban

WEARY shop workers are seeking a legal right to stay at home on Christmas Day. More stores plan to open on the 25th and staff face increasing pressure to put work before family life. But now 60 MPs are backing a union campaign for a ban on Christmas Day trading by big stores.

CHRISTMAS

Q. What do you get if you cross four sandwiches with a cathedral?
A. The lunch pack of Notre Dame.

CRACKERS

Fellas are real turkeys

BRITISH blokes turn into sexist pigs at Christmas - leaving everything to their wives and girlfriends. Eight out of 10 women get all the cards and write them too. And two-thirds cook the Christmas dinner single-handed, according to a Bella magazine survey.

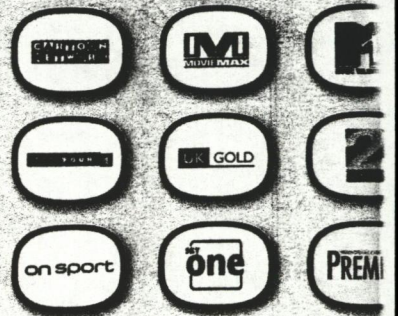
BIG BROTHER CRAIG'S HEART

EXCLUSIVE by

BIG Brother hunk Craig is so desperate for a girl to put an ad in a lonely hearts magazine. Craig hasn't had sex in 18 months. He hasn't had a decent sex prize in September. "I can't remember the last time I made love," moaned the sex Scouser. "I haven't even had a kiss. I lived without sex in the house but didn't expect it to go on for this long." "It's incredibly frustrating. I'm a 29-year-old hot-blooded male and if I don't get a girlfriend soon, I'll put an ad in the paper." Craig - who has been working hard promoting his new single At The Time of Year - will be

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I drove by doing son

MUM Tania Harrison drove past a car crash unaware that her son was dead in the wreckage.

She was on the way to visit son Tony Falzon, 24, but his Fiat Punto was so badly crushed it was unrecognisable when she saw it.

Tania, 49, carried on to Tony's home in Bedhampton, Hants. She said: "When I got there his nan told me he was out."

"Ten minutes later the police were at the door with the news he had been killed." Tony, who ran dance classes, was due to wed fiancée Rebecca Gash in April.

Lovers can go dotty!

AN old lighthouse will flash out dot-dash love signals for Valentine's Day.

New tech means today's lovers can convert romantic e-mails into Morse code.

Their love messages will then be beamed across the Wirral peninsula from New Brighton's 1827 Perch Rock lighthouse.

The lighthouse beacon is no longer used by shipping and has been turned to flash messages inland.

London computer expert and artist James Peel, who dreamt up the idea, said: "It's like text messages in Morse code and senders can request a certain time of day for their love beams."

Loan sharks crackdown

A BIG clampdown on cowboy credit companies was launched yesterday.

Fair trading watchdogs promised tougher action against lenders and brokers who dupe borrowers.

The Office of Fair Trading's new rules on credit deals aim to weed out rogue firms in the industry.

High pressure lenders who mislead or deal unfairly with borrowers will be stripped of their consumer credit licence.

Director General of Fair Trading John Vickers said the move would enable speedier action to be taken against lenders who did not meet OFT standards.

Soccer star's lucky brake

FOOTBALL star Benito Carbone had a lucky escape after a mischievous puppy nearly wrote off his Porsche.

Six-month-old mongrel Jack chewed through the handbrake of owner Kim Brown's car and sent it careering down a hill in Bradford City's car park.

It narrowly missed Italian star Benito's motor and a Mercedes before ploughing into the back of a Rover, causing £500 worth of damage.

City supporter Kim said: "I panicked but Jack was fine. And I'm so glad that we managed to avoid Benito's car."

THE CUDDLIEST VALENTINE PICTURES ARE IN YOUR EVER-LOVIN' PEOPLE



THANKYOU, PETAL: Caring Street star Bill presents hardworking youngster Kirsty with a bunch of Valentine roses

JACK'S LITTLE STREETHEART



SOFT CENTRE: Chocs for Bill

ROMEO Jack Duckworth was swept off his feet by little Valentine sweetheart Kirsty Howard yesterday and admitted: "I'm well and truly smitten."

Corrie favourite Jack - alias actor Bill Tarmey - got a huge box of chocolates and an even bigger kiss when brave heart tot Kirsty visited him on the Street set.

The five-year-old - who heads our kiddies' hospice campaign - then handed her favourite star a Valentine's

Corrie star smitten by brave Kirsty

EXCLUSIVE

By RACHAEL BLETCHLY

card dedicated to "Someone Very Special" which she had carefully signed: "With all my love, from Kirsty."

Bill's Christmas Day hospital visit to screen wife Vera has just been voted the most romantic TV scene ever. And he kept up his new-found image by giving Kirsty a huge bunch of red roses.

Bill, 59 - a staunch supporter of our appeal to save cash-strapped Francis House Hospice where Kirsty is battling a heart condition - said: "She is a sweetheart. I've met Kirsty several times and each time she is more beautiful."

"And all her hard work for the hospice is a real inspiration." Kirsty had

been asked who she'd most like to send a Valentine's card to - and she was adamant it had to be Bill. So Corrie bosses fixed it for her to surprise him.

Kirsty, of Northern Moor, Manchester, said: "I love Bill so I put 10 kisses on the card. That means he has to marry me."

●THE Emirates airline has donated £12,000 to the Kirsty Appeal to celebrate being the first to take off from Manchester Airport's new runway. To make a donation to the appeal - which now stands at £850,000 - please call the hotline on 08000 971 197.

27 FEB. 2001 18:37

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→ for slo

*cc Julian B
Godric Smith
Should someone advise*

Kate Garvey
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

KG 27/2.
27 February 2001

Dear Kate

At the invitation of Roy Beggs MP, The Prime Minister has agreed to attend and open the "Best of Northern Ireland" Exhibition in the Upper Waiting Hall at Westminster. The Prime Minister is expected at 3.45 p.m.

I attach for the Prime Minister's information a short briefing note on the Exhibition, and some suggested speaking notes on which he may wish to draw in opening the Exhibition.

Heather

HEATHER HAYES
DIARY SECRETARY



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

"BEST OF NORTHERN IRELAND" EXHIBITION: BRIEFING**Background**

The "Best of Northern Ireland" Exhibition takes the theme "Northern Ireland - Our Field of Vision". It will be on display in the Upper Waiting Hall, House of Commons, from 26 February - 2 March.

- The Prime Minister and Secretary of State have both agreed to attend the Exhibition on Wednesday 28 February in the Upper Waiting Hall at Westminster. Both are expected to speak - the Prime Minister will formally open the Exhibition. To facilitate PMQ's, the Prime Minister has been invited to open the exhibition at 3:45pm. Mr Beggs has also invited the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister, both of whom are expected to attend.

A reception hosted by the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board (IDB), in conjunction with Mr Beggs, for potential investors, key accounts, key GB influencers, existing investors and trade contacts will take place in the Strangers Dining Room on Tuesday 27 February. It is anticipated that upwards of 100 guests will attend.

Following the opening a reception will take place in the Strangers Dining Room. This is scheduled to finish at around 6pm. Invitations have been issued to all Northern Ireland Ministers, MPs, Members of the House of Lords and other political contacts.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Exhibition Content

The exhibition focuses on innovation and excellence in Northern Ireland through the use of photographs, supporting text and multi-media presentations in four main groupings:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| People and Place | culture/arts, leisure/sports, tourism, people |
| Land and Development | environment, regeneration infrastructure, agriculture |
| Expertise and Innovation | industry / business |
| Excellence Through Knowledge | education, further education and training, health, research and development |

The overall message is one of optimism and confidence, emphasis on Northern Ireland's highly educated, skilful and motivated work force, and an outward looking society and economy.

While Mr Beggs views the official opening as a fairly informal occasion we would suggest that the Prime Minister might wish to draw on the following brief lines.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

OUTLINE SPEAKING NOTES

- Delighted to be able to accept Roy Beggs' kind invitation to be here. On the brief viewing I have had so far it is an initiative of which he can be proud.
- The theme of the exhibition is very appropriate for it promotes the modern story of Northern Ireland. A story of a people who have much to be proud of, both in themselves and the environment and culture which sustains them.
- The exhibition vividly demonstrates their unique spirit of enterprise which has generated remarkable gains.
- Look at a couple of the examples displayed here today
- Innovative thinking by professionals in Northern Ireland hospitals introduced new products and approaches to treatments which have been adopted throughout the world.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Excellence in education and training in Northern Ireland is manifest not only in the skill base of the workforce, which is renowned across the world but in those who occupy senior positions in many businesses overseas.
- And there are more stories to be told. The exhibition provides a clear and important message that the people of Northern Ireland have a vision of optimism for a bright new future which embraces stability and economic prosperity.
- I very much hope that the exhibition will be studied by all those who pass through the Palace of Westminster. Without further ado I would like to declare this exhibition open.



“BEST OF NORTHERN IRELAND” REMARKS: 28 FEBRUARY

- Delighted to have been invited by Roy Beggs to open this exhibition.
- This exhibition is about much more than the success of one part of the United Kingdom. It reminds us that there has always been another Northern Ireland. A Northern Ireland that is now emerging from the shadows of the violence and political deadlock of previous decades.
- It is a Northern Ireland of innovation, enterprise and economic dynamism. Of rich culture and fine arts, beautiful landscapes and well developed tourism. Of excellence in education, the highest standards in public health care. Of international links and growing self-confidence.
- Northern Ireland has everything going for it. An enviable quality of life, including some of the lowest rates of crime in Europe. A highly educated, skilful and motivated workforce. A competitive, outward-looking economy. A bridge between Britain and the Republic.
- As this exhibition shows, Northern Ireland is at the forefront of developments from healthcare to aerospace. Such as the innovative clinical procedures and equipment developed in Northern Ireland's hospitals that have been adopted around the world.
- And this exhibition demonstrates another thing: Northern Ireland's optimism and confidence. Every exhibit speaks of the will of a people determined to leave the past behind and make the most of the future. A future built on political stability and economic prosperity.
- I very much hope this exhibition will be studied by all those who pass through the Palace of Westminster.
- Without further ado I would like to declare this exhibition open.

Word Count: 264



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

You are attending a reception hosted by the Queen at the Palace on Monday evening for winners of the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2000. Representatives from the CBI, TUC, IOD and BCC will also be present.

This is the 25th year of the Awards. The names and details of the 116 winners this year are contained in the attached booklet. These names will not be made public until the 21st April.

SV
23/2

**THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2000 (INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
INNOVATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT)**

**BRIEF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE AT HM THE QUEEN'S
RECEPTION, BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2001**

1. This is the twenty fifth annual Reception given by The Queen as an additional way of marking the achievements of the winners of The Queen's Awards. It is normal for other members of the Royal Family to attend. Guests will include members of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee.

2. Last year's Award-winning organisations have been asked to nominate three representatives each, drawn from different levels in the business unit. 114 Award winners will be represented at the Reception, as will organisations such as the CBI, TUC, IOD, and BCC.

3. The presentation of all guests to Her Majesty usually takes about half an hour. The Queen will then circulate, talking informally with guests while drinks and canapés are served. The Reception will last about two hours.

4. 2000 was the thirty fifth year of The Queen's Awards and 116 Awards were granted: 77 Awards for International Trade, 32 for Innovation and 7 for Environmental Achievement, from a total of 866 applications. One company's Award is to be annulled due to unworthy conduct and one winner declined the invitation to Buckingham Palace.

5. **Defensive Points**

(a) **The Scheme is open to all comers** - the criteria for the Awards do not discriminate against particular products or services; or against the size, location or length of establishment of the applicant. UK subsidiaries of overseas companies are eligible.

(b) *(If asked about the progress of the current selection procedures by representatives of firms present who have applied for a 2001 Award)*

The procedures are still continuing and the names of the winners will be publicly announced, as usual, on **21 April**. As you know from last year, the winners are informed shortly before the public announcement.

- (c) At The Queen's request, **The Prince of Wales chaired a Review of the Awards in 1999** with the following term of reference:

To review the operation of The Queen's Awards Scheme; and, having regard to:

- *the purpose of the Awards, which is to recognise outstanding achievements of UK businesses;*
- *the benefit of ensuring that the Awards are up to date and provide the best possible incentive for UK businesses;*
- ***the wish of the Government to encourage enterprise and innovation; and***
- *the need for assessment of achievement to be effective, economical and fair; and based as nearly as possible on objective judgement.*

to make recommendations.

- (d) The Review Committee published its report in September 1999. **Most of its recommendations, which were accepted by the Government** and by The Queen without qualification, **have now been implemented.** They included:

- "The Queen's Awards **for Enterprise**" as a **new title** for the scheme with **broader categories** of Award
- **greater transparency** in the selection procedures
- an open competition to design a **new Emblem** for the Awards.

The committee also recommended a **Queen's Award for Sustainable Development** (*to replace the Environmental Achievement category*), if possible in time for the 2001 Awards. The Queen's Awards Office achieved this and the **winners** in all three categories, including the first Sustainable Development winners, **will be announced on 21 April**, The Queen's personal birthday.

6. A general note on The Queen's Awards is attached at Annex A.

The Queen's Awards Office

February 2001

ANNEX A

BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE QUEEN'S AWARDS SCHEME

The Awards Scheme was instituted by Royal Warrant in 1965 following the recommendations of a Committee chaired by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. There were minor changes as a result of Reviews in 1970 and 1975; however, the Scheme remained largely unchanged until a major Review in 1999, chaired by The Prince of Wales.

The Awards are made by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, who is assisted by an Advisory Committee that includes representatives of Government, industry and commerce and the trades unions. They are announced annually on 21 April, The Queen's actual birthday.

Membership of the Advisory Committee is at present:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sir Richard Wilson | Chairman |
| Sir Richard Mottram | Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment, Transport, and the Regions |
| Sir Michael Scholar | Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry |
| Sir David Wright | Chief Executive, British Trade International |
| Dr Robert Hawley | Chairman, The Engineering Council |
| Ms Rosemary Radcliffe | Independent Member |
| Mr Amir Bhatia | Independent Member |
| Sir Iain Vallance | President, Confederation of British Industry |
| Mr John Monks | General Secretary, Trades Union Congress |
| Lord Levene | Chairman, International Financial Services, London |

The Awards are held for a period of five years and are formally conferred by a Grant of Appointment. To emphasise the corporate nature of the Award, presentations made on behalf of The Queen by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants are normally held locally at the winner's main factory or place of business, so that as many as possible of those who have contributed to the outstanding achievement can be present.

Award holders are entitled to fly the Award flag and to display the Emblem on their stationery, in advertising, on their goods and packaging and on mementos given to their employees.

The Queen's Awards Office administers the Awards Scheme throughout the year and during the Awards Season (October to April) manages the assessment of the applications. The Office is based in DTI; it maintains a distinct identity in its internal and external communications, while ensuring that the Scheme generally serves the objectives of the Department's policy. The responsible Minister is the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (Sir Richard Wilson) is the Office's ultimate head.

The Queen's Awards Office

February 2001

**THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2000
INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INNOVATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ACHIEVEMENT**

IN STRICT CONFIDENCE
UNTIL 21 APRIL 2000

NOT for publication, broadcast or use on club tapes **BEFORE 00.01 HOURS BST ON FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2000**. Recipients of this supplement should approach only the head or nominated contact of any organisation mentioned for information about their achievements, and ensure that there is no publicity before the above deadline. Initial contacts with others in the organisation must be avoided, as they will not be privy to the embargoed material.

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2000

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| INNOVATION | 43 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT | 59 |

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to confer Her Awards in 2000 upon the following business units in recognition of their outstanding achievement in international trade:

AES Engineering Limited
Abercrombie & Kent Europe Ltd
Air Bearings Ltd
Aircraft Leasing & Management Ltd
Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited
Andergauge Limited
Andor Technology Limited
Applied Satellite Technology Ltd
Artemi Limited
Baillie Gifford Overseas Limited
Bridge of Weir Leather Company Limited
CIL International Ltd
Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group Plc
Case United Kingdom Limited – Doncaster Tractor Assembly Plant
Cash Bases Ltd
Clear Channel International Ltd
ColorMatrix Europe Ltd
Geo. J. Cox Ltd
DANDO Drilling International Limited
De La Rue Security Print
Epichem Limited
Fibrin (Humberside) Limited
Firmedale Hotels Plc
Flomerics Ltd
GB Airways Limited
Garrad Hassan and Partners Limited
Geotek Ltd
Graseby Dynamics Ltd
John Guest Limited
H P: ICM (ICM International Ltd)
Hotels and More Ltd

Hydrosearch Associates Limited
IMC Geophysics Limited
IOP Publishing Ltd
Image Processing & Vision Company Ltd
Imagination Technologies Ltd - PowerVR Technology Division
International Television Enterprises London (ITEL)
JCB Heavy Products Ltd
Jaguar Cars Ltd
King's College London
Komatsu UK Limited
Leagas Delaney Group Ltd
Linx Printing Technologies Plc
The Macallan Distillers Limited
Mannesmann Rexroth Limited, Rexroth Scotland
Manor Farm Ducklings
Mathmos Ltd
Matra BAe Dynamics (UK) Limited
Messier-Dowty Limited
Micromass UK Ltd
Motorola Ltd, GSM Systems Division
Netcom Consultants (UK) Limited
Nycomed Amersham plc, Imaging Division
Ove Arup Partnership Ltd
Oxford Magnet Technology Limited
P & M Products Ltd
Pascall Electronics Limited
Pfizer Limited
Polycarb Ltd
Psion Dacom Plc
John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd
Semefab (Scotland) Ltd
Silberline Limited
Singletons Dairy Ltd
Smith & Ouzman Ltd

Software 2000 Limited
Special Contingency Risks Ltd
Spectrum Technologies PLC
Spheric Engineering Limited
Stephenson Group Limited
Sunseeker International (Boats) Limited
Targus Europe Ltd
Technology Publishing Limited
Tesla Engineering Limited
Traditional Weatherwear Ltd
Tripos Receptor Research Ltd
University of Westminster

AES Engineering Limited

Global Technology Centre, Mill Close, Bradmarsh Business Park, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S60 1BZ

Employees: 257

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr C J Rea

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Jonathon Woodhead

Tel: 01709 514 075

AES Engineering Limited manufactures mechanical seals and engineered sealing systems. Trading from 1974, the Rotherham and Bradford branch of AES Engineering Ltd won a Technology Award in 1988 and Export Awards in 1993 and 1995. The company's exports, which have doubled in the past three years, go to 47 markets world wide, 25 of them new. A little over half of total exports are to the USA with smaller proportions to Germany, Ireland, Italy and the rest of the World. The company has pursued a vigorous marketing strategy which has been successful in winning market share from larger international competitors. Overseas representation has been increased.

Abercrombie & Kent Europe Ltd

The Old Brewery, Priory Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4SG

Employees: 34

Managing Director: Mr D G V Rogers

Ultimate Parent: Abercrombie & Kent Group Holdings (Luxembourg)

Contact for press enquiries: David Rogers

Tel: 01993 823 828 – 07403 459 314

Abercrombie & Kent Europe Ltd has been trading since 1988 and specialises in providing luxury travel services for groups and individuals wishing to visit the UK for recreational purposes. The vast majority of its earnings come from the USA. The company places great emphasis on equating its brand name, Abercrombie & Kent, with 5-star deluxe travel.

Air Bearings Ltd

14 Blackhill Road West, Holton Heath Trading Park, Poole, Dorset BH16 6LF

Employees: 45

Managing Director: Mr K J Henocq

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr K J Henocq, Managing Director

Tel: 01202 621 866

Air Bearings Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. The company was founded in 1993 and manufactures air bearing drilling spindles for high speed or high accuracy applications such as printed circuit board drilling machines. Japan is the main export market with sales also to USA, Hong Kong, Germany, Taiwan and to China via Hong Kong. In the past three years exports have trebled and nearly all the company's output is exported.

Aircraft Leasing & Management Ltd

First Point, Buckingham Gate, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex RH6 0NT

Employees: 11

Managing Director: Mr S L Vella

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Stephen L Vella, Managing Director

Tel: 01293 567 656

Aircraft Leasing & Management Ltd has been trading since 1987 and specialises in the management of commercial aircraft, currently 27 in number in 6 jurisdictions on behalf of 7 lessors. It also offers advice on asset risk management, fleet planning and aircraft evaluation and re-markets commercial aircraft. The company has a client base of over 50 financial institutions and 40 airlines. Its overseas earnings come mostly from the Middle East, Far East, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited

Christchurch Way, Greenwich, London SE10 0AG

Employees: 938

Director, UK: Mr J W Burchell,

Ultimate Parent: Alcatel (France)

Contact for press enquiries: Lesley Hepden

Tel: 020 8293 2413

Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited, a French-owned manufacturer of undersea telecommunications equipment, is winning its first Award under its present name, together with an Innovation Award. Under previous ownership, it won Awards in 1977 and 1983 as the Submarine Systems Division of Standard Telephones and Cables Limited and in 1993 as STC Submarine Systems. The company, which started trading under its present name in 1998, is a world leader with a market share ranging between 35% and 40% of the world market. Exports increased by over £413m over 3 years. Main markets are Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Mediterranean, English Channel, North and Baltic Seas and Indian Ocean. This is the first occasion that the unit has gained two Awards in the same year.

Andergauge Limited

Badentoy Avenue, Badentoy Industrial Park, Aberdeen AB12 4YB

Employees: 40

Chairman: Mr C A Anderson

Ultimate Parent: Anderson Group Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Malcolm Greener, Managing Director

Tel: 01224 780 500

Andergauge Limited is winning an Award for the second time. In 1986 the company was founded on the first adjustable drilling stabiliser. The innovative design earned the company The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1992. The 'Andergauge' still retains market leadership and it is the export of this tool, and other drilling products, that has now earned the company The Queen's Award for Enterprise, International Trade. Over the past three years the company's exports increased by nearly £3 million and the proportion of output exported almost doubled. Major markets were Norway, West Africa, Egypt, UAE and Australia. Andergauge quickly recognised the value of placing dedicated, experienced staff in strategic global locations. With solid reliable tools and high calibre people, the company has been able to compete with major internationals by offering true added value and a strong support service.

Andor Technology Limited

9 Millennium Way, Springvale Business Park, Belfast BT12 7AL

Employees: 40

Managing Director: Dr H Cormican

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr John Knapton

Tel: 028 9023 7126

Andor Technology Limited, which started trading in 1989, is winning an Award for the first time. This small designer and manufacturer of scientific instruments has more than doubled its exports over the past three years. Its main markets are USA, Japan, Germany, Finland and France. The company's Belfast headquarters is supported by offices in Connecticut and California. This investment in the USA is evidence of the company's commitment to this primary market, and of its customer focus.

Applied Satellite Technology Ltd

Burlingham House, Hewett Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 ONN

Employees: 23

Managing Director: Mr G Darling

Ultimate Parent: Gardline Shipping Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Gregory Darling

Tel: 01493 44 00 11

Applied Satellite Technology Ltd was established in 1992. Its main activity is that of providing satellite telephones, satellite airtime and engineering support to companies and individuals that operate outside of conventional telephone and cellphone coverage. Such areas are essentially the sea, areas of low population density and developing countries. A minor part of the business is the design, manufacture and sale of a patented active tracking antenna system to provide satellite TV reception on board ships. The company initially identified all those areas of the world where there is no cellphone coverage and pitched its sales effort there. It now sells to 77 countries worldwide and pursues a policy of 24 hour response to enquiries and next day delivery.

Artemi Limited

Unit C1, Angel Road Works, Advent Way, London N18 3AH

Employees: 5

Director: Mr P Artemi

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Paul Artemi, Director

Tel: 020 8345 5656

Artemi Limited is winning its first Award. Trading since 1992, it manufactures hooks for the garment industry which enables the users to achieve up to 400% increase in hanging space. Main markets are the United States and the European Union. UK based sales representatives spend up to 60% of their time in their respective areas. They are supported by a web-site.

Baillie Gifford Overseas Limited

1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY

Employees: 19

Chairman: Mr M C B Ward

Ultimate Parent: Baillie Gifford & Co (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Ross Lidstone, Director

Tel: 0131 222 4031

Baillie Gifford Overseas Limited started trading in 1983 and first won The Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1995. Most of its business is concentrated on managing large institutional pension funds. Its overseas earnings represent fees earned on institutional assets valued currently at £4.97 billion. It has many prestigious clients including the State of New York, the City of Montreal, United Air Lines, Nestlé and Shell Pension Trust. Its success, in a highly competitive field, is based on investment expertise and shrewd marketing.

Bridge of Weir Leather Company Limited

Clydesdale Works, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire PA11 3LF

Employees: 394

Managing Director: Mr J A M Muirhead

Ultimate Parent: Scottish Tanning Industries Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Kate Robinson

Tel: 01505 612 132

Bridge of Weir Leather Co Ltd is winning an Award for the third time, following its successes in 1985 and 1996. It manufactures leather for seating and other interior applications especially in the automotive industry, but also in the aerospace and furniture industries. It has been in business since 1905. Its overseas earnings are now at a significantly higher level than at the time of the 1996 Award, representing ninety per cent of total sales, and the number of employees has doubled since then. Its main markets are Thailand, which European customers have developed as a base for cutting and stitching leather, and otherwise European countries.

CIL International Ltd

Fonthill Road, London N4 3HN

Employees: 101

Managing Director: Mr G Morris

Ultimate Parent: City Industrial Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Nicola Spencer, Marketing Manager

Tel: 020 7561 6435

CIL International Limited, which is part of City Industrial Limited, designs and manufactures merchandising systems and shop interiors, and is winning an Award for the first time. The firm has traded since 1954. Its exports, which have increased by nearly 300% over the past 6 years, go to a range of markets in Asia, Europe, the MiddleEast, Australia and North America. The company takes part in four international trade exhibitions on a regular basis. Success has been achieved against strong German and Italian competition and the problems involved in dealing urgently with diverse local market conditions.

Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group Plc

Lower Road, Glemsford, Suffolk CO10 7QS
Employees: 400
Managing Director: Mr E Atkin
Ultimate Parent: Cannon Avent Group plc (UK)
Contact for press enquiries: Andrea Bonner

Tel: 01702 588 270

The Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group plc wins the Award together with an Innovation Award. Doctors recommend breastmilk as the preferred nutrition for babies in their first year, but working mothers may return to work soon after birth. The AVENT product range, first launched in 1984, is specifically designed to help mothers successfully combine breast and bottle feeding, allowing babies to benefit from breastmilk for longer. The UK market leader, AVENT exports to 60 markets, the principal one being the USA. 8 new markets have been established over the past 3 years. Strong competition in the main markets is countered by continuous product improvement and innovation, close collaboration with health professionals and tailoring products and marketing communication to local preferences.

Case United Kingdom Limited – Doncaster Tractor Assembly Plant

Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN2 4PG
Employees: 390
Plant Manager: Mr R Purdy
Ultimate Parent: CNH (USA)
Contact for press enquiries: Mr Paul Tichiaz

Tel: 01302 733 413

The Doncaster Tractor Assembly Plant is winning an Award for the first time. The Plant is one of the largest UK producers of agricultural tractors, its exports accounting for some 10% of total exports of tractors. Over the past three years the Plant's exports averaged 84% of the total tractor shipments. Trading from 1948, the Plant was until autumn 1999 a part of Case United Kingdom Limited and a subsidiary of Case Corporation of the USA. Regulatory authorities in Europe and USA then gave clearance for a merger of Case Corporation with New Holland to form Case New Holland (CNH). European approval of the merger was subject to divestment of the Case CX and MXC product lines and the Doncaster Plant where they are assembled. The Plant will be sold as a going concern and will continue to sell tractors to a world wide market.

Cash Bases Ltd

The Drove, Newhaven, East Sussex BN9 0LA

Employees: 234

Managing Director: Mr H T Burnett

Ultimate Parent: Cash Bases Group Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Hugh T Burnett, Managing Director or Mr David J Westcott,
Sales Director

Tel: 01273 616 301 or 01273 616 303

Cash Bases Limited is winning an Award for the second time. It last won in 1995. The company manufactures customised steel cash drawers for the retail banking and hospitality sectors. It began trading in 1981 and under its present name, following a management buy out, in 1997. Over the past 6 years exports have increased by more than £6 million. France is the principal overseas market followed by Germany, the rest of the European Union, the USA, South Africa and Australia, the last three of which were new markets. The company won Sussex Business Awards for exports in 1998 and 1999 and was a finalist in the Mail on Sunday Business in Europe Awards.

Clear Channel International Ltd

33 Golden Square, London W1R 3PA

Employees: 603

Chief Executive: Mr R Parry

Ultimate Parent: Clear Channel Communications Inc (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr James Craven

Tel: 020 7591 8900

Clear Channel International Ltd has been trading in the UK since 1936 and is now the international division of Clear Channel Communications Inc. Prior to 1998 it traded as More Group Plc, in exactly the same business, and was acquired by Clear Channel Communications Inc of San Antonio, Texas, USA in June 1998. Through a network of overseas offices and under the trade name "Adshel" the company supplies street furniture (including bus shelters, litter bins, automatic public lavatories and news-stands) free of charge to local municipalities in 37 countries worldwide in return for the exclusive right to sell advertising space on the products. It also sells advertising on bill boards, transit vehicles and stations, airports and shopping centres.

ColorMatrix Europe Ltd

Unity Grove, Knowsley Business Park, Knowsley, Merseyside L34 9GT

Employees: 40

Operations Director: Mr M Frost

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Marta Nino

Tel: 0151 632 8800

Established in 1993, ColorMatrix Europe Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. It manufactures liquid colourants and additives for the plastics industry. So far its main target has been plastic bottles for beverages. It sells to more than 20 countries. Over three years, its exports have more than doubled and represent nearly three-quarters of its total sales.

Geo. J. Cox Ltd

Westfield Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 3HD

Employees: 78

Managing Director: Mr A P M Waterfield

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Adam Waterfield, Managing Director

Tel: 01933 224 181

George Cox, who manufacture street fashion footwear, especially retro style "creepers", is winning an Award for the first time. It traces its origins back to 1906. The company's big success is in Japan, which continues to take over ninety per cent of its exports, despite the recent difficult economic conditions there. Other markets are in Europe, USA and Hong Kong. Over three years, exports have more than doubled and represent over three-quarters of total sales.

DANDO Drilling International Limited

Old Customs House, Wharf Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5DN

Employees: 11

Managing Director: Mr M Fitch-Roy

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Gina Fitch-Roy

Tel: 01903 731 312

DANDO Drilling International Limited, a leading manufacturer of drilling rigs and equipment mainly for water well drilling, is making its third application. The company started trading in its present form in 1991, but can trace its origins to 1867. Its exports increased by over 150% during the past 3 years. Its main market are Ethiopia, Northern Iraq, Indonesia, Nigeria and Sudan. The exports to Northern Iraq consist entirely of water well drilling equipment purchased for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation as part of the food for oil programme. The company aims not only to supply its clients with the relevant equipment, but also with the technology and ability to achieve their ends.

De La Rue Security Print

French's Avenue, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1BJ

Employees: 133

General Manager: Mrs J Furber

Ultimate Parent: De La Rue plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Julie Furber

Tel: 01582 679 601

De La Rue Security Print is winning an Award for the first time. Part of De La Rue International and trading since 1968, the company exports paper signature panels to credit card manufacturers in France and Germany. Under a contract with Microsoft USA, security certificates and manual covers are sold to licensed Microsoft replicators world wide. The USA is the main market followed by the Far East, Germany and other European countries. There are distribution centres in USA and Singapore. In the past three years, exports have increased by nearly £12 million in value terms and the percentage of output exported remained very high.

Epicchem Limited

Power Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside CH62 3QF

Employees: 65

Managing Director: Mr A B Leese

Ultimate Parent: Metdream Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Lesley Smith

Tel: 0151 334 2774

Epicchem Ltd manufactures special gases and a range of organometallic compounds used by the electronics industry to produce compound semi-conductors and other components. Following its success in 1996, it is winning its second Award. The company has been in business since 1984. Epicchem has advanced rapidly since the 1996 Award and, in comparison, can show a larger increase in overseas earnings at a significantly higher level. It sells to Europe and the Far East, but the largest customer is the USA, where the establishment of a subsidiary has opened up the large market.

Fibrin (Humberside) Limited

Borwick Drive, Grovehill, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 OHQ

Employees: 24

Chief Executive Officer: Mr C Linsner

Ultimate Parent: Anglo-Danish Fibre Industries Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Carter or Craig Linsner

Tel: 01482 863 777

Established in 1988, Fibrin (Humberside) Ltd is a specialist producer of polypropylene fibres for improving the quality and durability of concrete. It is winning an Award for the first time. Over three years, it has doubled its exports, which now represent nearly two-thirds of total sales. Fibrin has achieved notable success in the USA, where exports have grown from nothing in 1997 to a third of the total. Other main markets are in Western Europe but new ones are being developed widely. In 1997 Fibrin took over a Danish competitor and jointly set up the parent company of which the Danish firm is now a separate subsidiary.

Firmdale Hotels Plc

18 Thurloe Place, London SW7 2SP

Employees: 205

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr T Kemp

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Craig Markham

Tel: 020 7581 4045

Firmdale Hotels Plc, which has been trading since 1983, owns and operates 4 luxury London "townhouse" hotels situated in Covent Garden, Sloane Street, Dorset Square and Pelham Crescent. A new hotel in Charlotte Street has just opened. All these hotels place great emphasis on exclusivity, privacy, style and luxury. USA is the biggest market but guests come also from France, Japan, Germany and Austria. New markets have been developed in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Flomerics Ltd

81 Bridge Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9HH

Employees: 42

Chief Executive Officer: Dr D G Tatchell

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Michael J W Reynell, Director of Marketing

Tel: 020 8941 8810

Flomerics Ltd has been trading since 1989. Its main product, FLOTHERM, is used by electronics manufacturers to analyse and improve the thermal design of electronics equipment of all kinds. This software house has done particularly well in USA and Canada where it has very strong competition from two larger American companies. It also exports to Germany, France, Japan and the rest of SE Asia.

GB Airways Limited

Iain Stewart Centre, Beehive Ring Road, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex RH6 0PB

Employees: 427

Managing Director: Mr J Patterson

Ultimate Parent: The Bland Group Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Jason Nicholls

Tel: 01293 664 240

The UK's fourth largest international scheduled airline, GB Airways Limited has been operating under a franchise agreement with British Airways since February 1995. Last year (1999/2000), the Gatwick-based airline flew more than one million passengers on scheduled flights to and from Gatwick and Heathrow airports to Spain, Portugal, North Africa, Gibraltar and Malta. GB Airways currently operates a fleet of nine Boeing 737 aircraft. In May 2000, it begins a half billion dollar programme to replace its fleet with part British made Airbus aircraft. The airline's main overseas customers come from Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar, USA and Canada. With the last three financial years, it has more than doubled its overseas revenues.

Garrad Hassan and Partners Limited

The Coach House, Folleigh Lane, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9JB

Employees: 38

Director: Dr A Garrad

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Dr A Garrad

Tel: 01275 394 360

Garrad Hassan and Partners Limited started trading in 1984 and is a leading authority on all aspects of wind technology. The company specialises in wind turbine consultancy, the development and supply of software for wind turbines and wind farm design, combined hardware and software for measurements on wind turbines, due diligence work for banks and strategic studies. It has overseas offices in Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Australia and New Zealand, all employing expert staff. Agents and distributors are not used because the consultancy does not wish to dilute the quality of advice on offer. Major markets abroad include USA, Spain, Japan, Italy, Turkey, Denmark and Germany.

Geotek Ltd

Nene House, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 5EA

Employees: 7

Managing Director: Dr P J Schultheiss

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Tim Francis

Tel: 01327 311 666

Founded in 1989, Geotek Ltd designs and manufactures specialised geological and oceanographic equipment. The company has grown to become the world's leading supplier of equipment for the automated analysis of marine sediment cores. Sales of the Multi-Sensor Core Logger have tripled since 1997, the main markets being Europe, the USA and Japan. Universities and marine survey companies use the instrument for a range of applications including studies of global climatic change and offshore site investigation. Geotek also plays a leading role in specifying and managing marine environmental surveys of the seafloor. These are related to the expansion of the North Sea oil industry into deeper waters to the west of Shetland and Geotek's expertise is now being applied in more distant and challenging marine environments such as the Caspian Sea.

Graseby Dynamics Ltd

Park Avenue, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 2BW

Employees: 255

Managing Director: Mr John Shepherd

Ultimate Parent: Smiths Industries plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr John Shepherd

Tel: 01923 65 8101

Graseby Dynamics Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. The company, which manufactures chemical warfare agent detection systems, started trading in 1950. Exports increased fourfold during the past three years, the main markets being USA, Switzerland, Australia, Canada and Italy. The company's strategy has revolved around significant investment in Private Venture Research and Development; an aggressive and keenly focused sales and marketing activity involving all employees; and a preparedness to adapt to local trading conditions and regulations. All of these have combined to enable Graseby Dynamics Ltd to position itself as the world leader in Chemical Warfare Agent Detection and contribute to the protection against this threat.

John Guest Limited

Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8JL

Employees: 511

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr J D Guest MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: John, Robert or Barry Guest

Tel: 01895 449 233

John Guest Limited is winning its third Award. Trading since 1979 it manufactures push-in fittings for the building trade, automobile and engineering industries. Main markets are Europe and North America. During the last 6 years new markets have been opened in Japan, Brazil, Hungary, Malaysia and Latvia. The company's strategy is geared to achieving medium and long term growth rather than short term gains. They have established subsidiary companies providing sales, marketing, warehousing and distribution facilities in their main markets. Profits made by each subsidiary are reinvested with the primary aim of increasing the sale of the company's UK manufactured products.

HP:ICM (ICM International Ltd)

53 Frith Street, London W1V 5TE

Employees: 88

Sales and Marketing Director: Mr D Tarsh

Ultimate Parent: Cordiant Communications Group Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Tarsh, Sales and Marketing Director

Tel: 020 7434 0929 - 07770 816 070(mobile)

HP:ICM creates conferences and launches that motivate and inspire multi-cultural audiences. It designs highly innovative exhibition stands and displays that draw enthusiastic crowds. It puts together engaging multimedia presentations. It produces award winning films and videos and it delivers results against communications objectives. Export earnings come from a range of markets, the main ones, currently, are in Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Showcase work includes: the Body and Local Zones in the Greenwich Millennium Dome, the last eight pan-European dealer launches for General Motors and the British pavilion at the last and next World Expos (Lisbon '98 and Hanover 2000).

John Guest Limited

Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8JL

Employees: 511

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr J D Guest MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: John, Robert or Barry Guest

Tel: 01895 449 233

John Guest Limited is winning its third Award. Trading since 1979 it manufactures push-in fittings for the building trade, automobile and engineering industries. Main markets are Europe and North America. During the last 6 years new markets have been opened in Japan, Brazil, Hungary, Malaysia and Latvia. The company's strategy is geared to achieving medium and long term growth rather than short term gains. They have established subsidiary companies providing sales, marketing, warehousing and distribution facilities in their main markets. Profits made by each subsidiary are reinvested with the primary aim of increasing the sale of the company's UK manufactured products.

HP:ICM (ICM International Ltd)

53 Frith Street, London W1V 5TE

Employees: 88

Sales and Marketing Director: Mr D Tarsh

Ultimate Parent: Cordiant Communications Group Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Tarsh, Sales and Marketing Director

Tel: 020 7434 0929 - 07770 816 070(mobile)

HP:ICM creates conferences and launches that motivate and inspire multi-cultural audiences. It designs highly innovative exhibition stands and displays that draw enthusiastic crowds. It puts together engaging multimedia presentations. It produces award winning films and videos and it delivers results against communications objectives. Export earnings come from a range of markets, the main ones, currently, are in Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Showcase work includes: the Body and Local Zones in the Greenwich Millennium Dome, the last eight pan-European dealer launches for General Motors and the British pavilion at the last and next World Expos (Lisbon '98 and Hanover 2000).

Hotels and More Ltd

3 Jardine House, Harrovian Business Village, Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3EX

Employees: 13

Managing Director: Mr W A Schleuter

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Patrick Collins

Tel: 020 8515 9830

Hotels and More Ltd was established in 1996 and provides a complete travel service for overseas groups (including study groups and school children in the custody of teachers) wishing to visit the UK for holiday purposes. Its main customers come from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Holland.

Hydrosearch Associates Limited

Goldsworth House, Denton Way, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey GU21 3LF

Employees: 127

Managing Director: Dr J P Williams

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Dr J P Williams, Managing Director

Tel: 01483 746 501

Hydrosearch Associates Limited was formed in 1979 and provides technical and management geoscience consultancy services to assist in the exploration for, and development of, oil and gas reserves, both onshore and offshore. It numbers as its clients about 100 oil and mining companies in over 60 countries worldwide, the most important market areas being Europe, Africa, SE Asia, Australia, the Middle East, India, the Americas and Russia. New markets include the Falklands, Madagascar and Cuba. Recent technical diversification has included penetration of the submarine telecommunications cable market plus the start-up of an Internet-related venture addressing a specific niche in the energy sector.

IMC Geophysics Limited

PO Box 18, Common Road, Huthwaite, Sutton-In-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 2NS

Employees: 45

Managing Director: Mr J B Lott

Ultimate Parent: ICF Group Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr John Holt, Director

Tel: 01623 444 609

IMC Geophysics Limited was originally a specialist division of the British Coal Corporation, providing a narrow range of services almost exclusively to the coal industry within the UK. Since its establishment as a limited company in 1995 it has forged ahead abroad and has become an important player in the oil and gas sector at remote and difficult sites all over the world. It acquires, processes and interprets geophysical data for the hydrocarbon, mining, mineral, civil engineering and power industries. The company's major markets, currently, are the Caspian sea area, Europe and Africa.

IOP Publishing Ltd

Dirac House, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6BE

Employees: 180

Managing Director: Mr J R Cowhig

Ultimate Parent: Institute of Physics (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Valerie Adams

Tel: 0117 929 7481

IOP Publishing Limited, established in 1949 and a subsidiary of the Institute of Physics, publishes research journals, books, reference works and magazines together with complementary web sites, all in physics and related subjects. The company won an Award in 1995. Its exports have grown by over £5 million in the past 6 years. Its major markets are North America, Western Europe and Japan. Web publishing is replacing paper as the primary publishing medium for the company's core business. Overseas markets are increasingly territory-neutral as regards vendors or supplies and this has enabled the company to compete successfully against major US firms with new products. The company has successfully adapted its marketing strategy to the changing nature of its business.

Image Processing & Vision Company Ltd

Viscount Centre II, University of Warwick Science Park, Millburn Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7HS

Employees: 30

Managing Director: Mr A E Waterfall

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Andrew E Waterfall, Managing Director

Tel: 024 7669 2229

Image Processing and Vision Company Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. Trading since 1990 it produces software-based imaging systems for biomedical research into cell structure and function. The company's main markets are the USA, followed by Germany and Switzerland. In the USA it has had to overcome local competition from companies with well established national coverage and the reluctance of local distributors to deal with foreign organisations.

Imagination Technologies Ltd-PowerVR Technology Division

Home Park Estate, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LZ

Employees: 112

Managing Director: Dr H Yassaie

Ultimate Parent: Imagination Technologies Group plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr David Harold, PR Manager

Tel: 01923 260 511

The PowerVR Technology division of Imagination Technologies Ltd, which also wins an Innovation Award, has been operating since 1995 and designs 2D and 3D graphics technologies for use across a wide variety of consumer platforms such as games consoles, arcade machines and personal computers. All its earnings come from licensing agreements with the world's leading semiconductor companies in USA, Europe and Japan which manufacture silicon chips utilising the Division's designs. Since it was founded in 1985, Imagination Technologies has introduced, via licensing arrangements or directly, a succession of innovative technologies, silicon chips and add-in boards, which have played a major role in the development of multimedia and computer-based entertainment systems.

International Television Enterprises London (ITEL)

48 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7FB

Employees: 65

Chief Executive: Mr A Macbean

Ultimate Parent: United News & Media (UK) and HBO (USA): Joint Venture Partners

Contact for press enquiries: Michelle Waldron

Tel: 020 7539 2644

International Television Enterprises London (ITEL) has been trading since 1982. Its core business is the distribution of international TV rights i.e. the right for international broadcasters to broadcast TV programmes a set number of times over a limited period via a specific medium (terrestrial, cable or satellite). These rights are acquired through a mix of representation and investment deals with TV companies. The company has an extensive list of catalogues and has invested heavily in UK programming for the ITV network and BBC. Its overseas earnings come mainly from the Americas, Europe and Australasia.

JCB Heavy Products Ltd

Bamford Works, Pinfold Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire ST14 8TL

Employees: 267

Director and General Manager: Mr M Turner

Ultimate Parent: JCB Service

Contact for press enquiries: Nigel Chell, Press Officer

Tel: 01889 593 592

JCB Heavy Products Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. Over the past three years, JCB Heavy Products' exports have increased by more than £20 million and exports have risen to 66%. Under a joint venture agreement with a Japanese company, JCB Heavy Products could only sell in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Following the end of the joint venture the company is selling worldwide and has successfully launched into new markets, including North America. The Japanese lead the way in excavator technology and JCB Heavy Products continues to use key components from Japanese suppliers in their machines. JCB Heavy Products is part of the JCB Group, the world's fifth largest construction equipment manufacturers, employing more than 4000 people worldwide and exporting to more than 140 countries. The Group has won 15 Queen's Awards to date.

Jaguar Cars Ltd

Browns Lane, Allesley, Coventry, West Midlands, CV5 9DR

Employees: 5989

Managing Director: Mr J. Browning

Ultimate Parent: Ford Motor Company

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Colin Cook

Tel: 02476 203 321

Jaguar Cars Ltd is winning an Award for the sixth time, the last occasion being in 1986. It has been in business since 1922. Principal markets are the USA, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada. In recent years 6 new markets have been opened up. Distribution arrangements are a key factor in Jaguar's success in export markets. It has made major investments in taking control of its national sales companies in its major markets and has ensured that all dealers have invested in first class facilities and systems.

King's College London

The Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

Employees: 4920

Principal: Professor A. Lucas

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Christopher Coe, Director of Communications

Tel: 020 7848 3072

King's College London was founded in 1829. Its foreign earnings come from fees from overseas students and research and consultancy services from abroad through its wholly owned subsidiary KCL Enterprises Ltd. Students come from all over the world particularly USA, Europe, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. New markets include Japan, China and Nigeria. KCL Enterprises Ltd is active in Europe, Japan and USA. The College won The Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1995.

Komatsu UK Limited

Durham Road, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH3 2QX

Employees: 527

Managing Director: Mr K Tipping

Ultimate Parent: Komatsu Limited (Japan)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Ken Covell

Tel: 0191 492 5207

Komatsu UK Limited is winning an Award for the second time. Owned jointly by Komatsu, Japan, and Komatsu Europe International N.V, the company manufactures medium sized hydraulic excavators and has traded since 1986. Over the past three years, the company's exports have increased by over £70 million and the proportion of output exported increased to nearly 90%. Europe is the main market but the UK plant is the sole source world wide for certain models. During the application period new markets have been developed. In the past three years the company has developed and implemented a comprehensively revised marketing strategy which has proved successful in achieving sales growth and increase in market share despite difficult trading conditions.

Leagas Delaney Group Ltd

233 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EL

Employees: 133

Chairman: Mr T Delaney

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Nick Hough

Tel: 020 7655 9501

The Leagas Delaney Group Ltd is a creative advertising agency which has been trading since 1980 and has its own offices in San Francisco, Paris, Dusseldorf and Rome. Its main markets are in USA, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy and its main overseas clients include adidas, Goodyear, Nintendo, Patek Philippe, Lancaster, Salomon and the United Nations (New York and Geneva). At home it represents Barclays, Harrods and the BBC.

Linx Printing Technologies Plc

Burrel Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 3LA

Employees: 227

Managing Director: Mr M J Stevens

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Andy Matthews, Key Communications

Tel: 020 7580 0222

Linx Printing Technologies Plc is winning its second Award. In business since 1987, it previously won in 1992. The company designs, produces and exports industrial ink jet printers to over 50 markets, the main destinations being USA, Germany, Hong Kong and China, Japan and France. Linx printers are used in a wide range of manufacturing industries to apply dates, batch codes and other variable information to products during the production process. Linx has developed partnerships with carefully selected distributors who are supported by a commercial sales structure dividing the world into 5 areas, each with a manager responsible for developing strategies and business plans for each distributor. The company has grown at twice the average rate of the sector over the last 5 years and has increased market share from 9% in 1995 to 14%.

The Macallan Distillers Limited

Easter Elchies, Craigellachie, Banffshire AB38 9RX

Employees: 37

Chairman: Mr Barrie Jackson

Ultimate Parent: The Edrington Group Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Malcolm Cannon, Director of Corporate Affairs,
The Edrington Group

Tel: 01738 493 669 or 0141 352 6598

The Macallan Distillers Ltd are old-established (1824) producers of malt whisky. They are winning their third successive Award and their fifth in total. They sell to 50 countries, of which the USA is their largest market. Their exports now represent almost two-thirds of total sales. The company is dedicated to maintaining The Macallan's virtues, such as the exclusive use of sherry casks for maturation and other long-established and costly production principles, which are rigorously retained for reasons of quality.

Mannesmann Rexroth Limited, Rexroth Scotland

Viewfield Industrial Estate, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2RD

Employees: 215

General Manager: Mr A Johnstone

Ultimate Parent: Mannesmann AG (Germany)

Contact for press enquiries: Alastair Johnstone

Tel: 01592 631 777

Mannesmann Rexroth Ltd, Rexroth Scotland, is winning an Award for the first time. Rexroth's activities in Scotland began in 1976. The company designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of hydraulic motors. Typical applications include excavators, forklift trucks, road rollers, skid steer loaders and forestry and agricultural equipment. In the past 6 years, exports have increased by more than £8 million. The main export market is the USA followed by Germany, Sweden, Holland and Japan. Over the same period, the company has implemented its strategic plan targeted at becoming the world market leader in its product area and has already realised substantial progress towards that objective.

Manor Farm Ducklings

Swaffham Road, Ickburgh, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 5HX

Employees: 152

General Manager: Mr A F Helsby

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Caroline Lister

Tel: 01328 830 848

Manor Farm Ducklings has won this Award at its first attempt. Established in the 1950s, the family business was incorporated in 1995, the same year that it began its export programme, selling whole and portioned duck and geese. Its main markets are currently Holland and Germany, (where it has exclusive distributors), Denmark and Sweden. A recent £4m investment in a new factory, equipped to the very highest standards, has established Manor Farm as a gold standard for poultry production throughout Europe and it is a highly respected supplier to the retail, catering and food service sectors. Fresh and frozen poultry are sold as own label products, or under the Manor Farm brand. It also supplies an innovative range of superior quality, value added dishes.

Mathmos Ltd

20 - 24 Old Street, London EC1V 9AP

Employees: 148

Managing Director: Ms C Granger

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Josie Ballin

Tel: 020 7549 2724

Mathmos designs and manufactures a range of kinetic light objects for the home, including the original "Lava-lamp". This is the second time Mathmos have won the Award. Mathmos was recently listed as one of the fastest growing companies in the UK. Exports have more than doubled over the past three years, Germany being the largest market. Since September 1997 the company has been managing its German market through its "Virtual Office" based in London. German customers benefit from Mathmos' freephone and 72 hour delivery guaranteed. Other export markets throughout Europe and beyond are experiencing strong growth and are handled by a separate sales team made up entirely of continental nationals with most European languages covered between them.

Matra BAe Dynamics (UK) Limited

PO Box 19, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2DA

Employees: 2607

Director of Programmes: Mr G R Griffiths

Ultimate Parent: BAE SYSTEMS (UK 50%) Aerospatiale Matra (France 50%)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Sheldon Hind

Tel: 01438 754 103

Matra BAe Dynamics (UK) Limited is winning an Award for the first time under its present name. Trading originally from 1949 and under its present name from 1996 as an Anglo-French joint venture owned by BAE SYSTEMS and Aerospatiale Matra. The company's expertise extends from system integration and guided weapons through to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and countermeasures for the world's armies, navies and air forces. Over the past three years exports increased by over £90 million and the percentage of output exported increased significantly. The Middle East was by far the largest market followed by the rest of Europe, Asia and Australia. The company's exports accounted for nearly 20% of total UK exports of defence equipment.

Messier-Dowty Limited

Cheltenham Road, Gloucester GL2 9QH

Employees: 838

Chief Operating Officer: Mr A Stevens

Ultimate Parent: Snecma (France)

Contact for press enquiries: Peter Hall

Tel: 01452 711 815

Messier-Dowty Limited designs, develops, manufactures and supports landing gear systems for most major aircraft constructors worldwide. The company, with over 70 years experience providing landing gear for commercial and military aircraft, has increased its exports by £43m over a six-year period. Its main markets are Europe and the USA. A significant element of the company's export business is derived from the supply of landing gears for the entire range of Airbus Industrie aircraft. In pursuance of its aim to increase its USA market share, the company has been successful in securing the contract for the complete landing gear system for the Boeing Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.

Micromass UK Limited

Floats Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 9LZ

Employees: 334

Chairman: Mr R A Williams

Ultimate Parent: Waters Corporation (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Mark McDowall

Tel: 0161 718 4522

Micromass UK Limited, which also wins an Innovation Award, started trading under its present name in 1996. The company is a leading supplier of mass spectrometers used for the analysis of a wide range of substances from proteins to drugs to trace elements. Exports increased by over £36m (80%) over the past three years. Main markets are USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, Scandinavia, Benelux and France. During the past three years more effort has been put into other European and Mediterranean countries, Latin America, India, China, Taiwan, Korea and Australia. Over thirty years the company (previously V.G. Instruments which won Export Awards in 1979, 1982 and 1987) has played a leading role in the development of mass spectrometry and today has an enviable market position, particularly in the fast growing Life Science area.

Motorola Ltd, GSM Systems Division

16 Euroway, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8YQ

Employees: 2320

Corporate Vice President and General Manager GSM Systems Division: Mr E Hally

Ultimate Parent: Motorola Inc (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Beth Sharples, PR Manager

Tel: 01793 566 690

Motorola Ltd GSM Systems Division started trading in 1989. It is the same unit as Motorola Ltd Products Division which won an Award in 1999. It won Awards in 1995 and 1996 as the European Cellular Infrastructure Division. The company, which manufactures computer based cellular radio telephone equipment, increased its exports by 83% over 3 years. It exports to over 40 markets each year, the main ones being China, Spain, Turkey, Germany, France, and South Africa. With the advent of the internet world, GSM mobile telephony will migrate to an internet protocol over wireless architecture. During the application year the company has aggressively built an evolving architecture for its customers that allows migration through packet radio (GPRS) to a multi-media internet protocol mobile environment utilising Wideband WCDMA technology.

Netcom Consultants (UK) Ltd

Imperium, Imperial Way, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0SY

Employees: 48

UK Market Director: Mrs B Ricou

Ultimate Parent: XSource Corporation Inc(USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Robert Lesser, Global Sales & Marketing Director

Tel: 01189 224 407

Netcom Consultants (UK) Ltd is part of a global organisation that supplies specialist Telecommunication consulting services, particularly in emerging technologies. The company, which has been trading in the UK since 1995, differentiates itself from traditional consultancies on the basis of the real operational expertise it provides to clients. The successful formula has already allowed Netcom to work for clients in over 100 countries worldwide. Much of the UK company's growth has come from the fast developing Latin America market where Netcom Consultants (UK) has opened its own managed subsidiary in São Paulo. Through innovative sales and marketing in the region the company has significantly increased sales despite large fluctuations in the currency of its core market, Brazil, which adversely affected the trade of all its clients.

Nycomed Amersham plc, Imaging Division

Amersham Place, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire HP7 9NA

Employees: 731

Chief Executive: Dr John Padfield

Ultimate Parent: Nycomed Amersham Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Boyd,

Tel: 01494 542 131

Nycomed Amersham Imaging is a division of Nycomed Amersham Plc formed in 1997 by the merger of Amersham International plc (its former parent) and Nycomed ASA, Norway. It can trace its UK roots to 1940. It researches, develops and manufactures products for early detection and diagnosis of diseases and for treatment of cancers. Its predecessors won a number of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technological Achievement. It won a Technological Achievement Award in 1998 for Myoview™ for the investigation of cardiovascular disease. This product now has market leadership in Europe and 30 per cent of the strategically important US market. The division's other main success is OncoSeed™ for treatment of prostate cancer, which has a market share of 50 per cent, especially in USA and Europe. Over six years Nycomed's substantial overseas earnings have more than doubled.

Ove Arup Partnership Ltd

13 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 6BQ

Employees: 2935

Chairman: Dr Duncan Michael

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Michael Sargent or Harriett Ryan

Tel: 020 7465 3073

Ove Arup Partnership Ltd has been trading since 1946 and has won The Queen's Award for Export Achievement on three previous occasions. It operates through a network of 44 offices in 19 countries and a further 28 offices, in another 12 countries, of firms all which share the Arup aims, technology and name. This network of consultancy firms provides a worldwide intelligence-gathering capability which has led to the partnership's excellent record in winning international design competitions. It is also the basis for the extraordinary record of successful project delivery. Most of its overseas earnings come from East and South-East Asia, North America, Europe and Africa.

Oxford Magnet Technology Limited

Wharf Road, Eynsham, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 1BP

Employees: 508

Managing Director: Dr D G Hawksworth

Ultimate Parent: Siemens A G (Germany)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr David Grime, Director of Customer Service and Sales

Tel: 01865 850 262

Oxford Magnet Technology Limited is a joint venture, 51% owned by Siemens Plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Siemens AG (Germany) and 49% by Oxford Instruments Plc, a UK listed company. The company, the world's largest supplier of magnet systems for use in medical imaging equipment, won Export Awards in 1985 and 1992 and a Technology Award in 1996. It started trading in 1982. Its exports increased by 61% over 3 years. Main markets are Germany, USA, Japan and South Korea. Approximately 50% of the company's sales to Germany are products whose final destination will be USA, which is therefore the company's largest ultimate market. The company and its European customers must therefore overcome the disadvantage of high transport and duty costs of shipping products to that market. This is achieved by establishing and maintaining both a technological advantage and a manufacturing cost position superior to its competitors.

P & M Products Ltd

6 Endsleigh Road, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3LX

Employees: 46

Joint Managing Director: Mr D J Eaton

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Jeremy Field

Tel: 01737 645 006

P & M Products Limited is winning an Award for the first time. Established in 1992, the company manufactures creative colouring products. The main export marketing effort is concentrated on the European Union, particularly in Northern Europe, and USA. Over the past three years exports increased more than six fold and the proportion of output exported increased substantially.

Pascall Electronics Limited

Westridge Business Park, Cothey Way, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1QT

Employees: 160

Managing Director: Mr D Brannock

Ultimate Parent: Intelek Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Ann M Crow

Tel: 01793 827 000

Pascall Electronics Limited, which started trading in 1977, is winning an International Trade Award for the first time. The company produces high specification electronics systems and high quality components for the aerospace, defence, telecommunications and maritime industries. Exports almost quadrupled over three years. Main markets are USA/North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, South America, Africa and the Middle East. The company has identified the need for, and development of, high specification electronic systems for specialist world-wide markets. HRH The Prince of Wales opened its new company headquarters on 6th July 1999.

Pfizer Limited

Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ

Employees: 3933

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr I Robinson

Ultimate Parent: Pfizer Inc (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Beth Coldwell

Tel: 01304 645 330

Pfizer Ltd, a prominent research-based manufacturer of pharmaceuticals since 1954, is winning an Award for the third time. Its previous Export successes were in 1993 and 1997. Although part of a US-owned group, it develops its own range of pharmaceutical products and twice won the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. A substantial part of its very large overseas earnings comes from royalties from other parts of the group which are licensed to manufacture and sell these products around the world. The overseas earnings also include significant income from contract or cost-shared research, almost all with US associates, and direct sales of its own products. The company's overseas earnings increased by over £170m in three years and represented more than 70 per cent of total earnings. Its capital investment in the 1990s was nearly £800m.

Polycarb Ltd

Unit 2, Doncaster Carr Industrial Estate, White Rose Way, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 5JH

Employees: 33

Managing Director: Mr Shai Michael

Ultimate Parent: Palram Industries (Israel)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Mike Heaven, Sales Manager

Tel: 01302 380 738 – 07966 456 529 (Mobile)

Polycarb Ltd, established in 1995 wins its first Queen's Award for Enterprise, International Trade. Polycarb manufactures polycarbonate and acrylic sheets and exports these to 19 countries abroad, including Continental Europe and North and Central America. In the last year, sales offices and warehousing have been established in France, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. This infrastructure exemplifies the company's commitment to service in its export markets. Polycarb is particularly susceptible to exchange rate fluctuations and the challenges faced by British exporters of a strong pound. The company must also compete with plastic sheet extruders with production sites based in these same export markets. Polycarb exports to: Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Greece, Argentina, Colombia and the United States of America.

Psion Dacom Plc

Dacom House, Presley Way, Crown Hill, Milton Keynes MK8 0EF

Employees: 295

Managing Director: Mr Clive Hudson

Ultimate Parent: Psion Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Wendy Thompson

Tel: 01908 269 251 – 07768 993 819 (Mobile)

Psion Dacom Plc is winning a Queen's Award for the first time. Part of Psion PLC, the group of companies focused on providing mobile Internet solutions, Psion Dacom has been in business since 1981. It provides a variety of mobile communications and connectivity products, including the Gold Card and Gold Port USB range. Psion Dacom's products are engineered to the highest quality standards to meet the demands of today's mobile communications environment and enjoy an enviable reputation for reliability and dependability. The company's main markets are the UK, USA, Sweden, Germany, Netherlands and France. Nine new markets have been established over the last 3 years, bringing the total to 46. Individual sales strategies are devised for each country with some adopting OEM routes to market and others utilising Psion Dacom's own distribution channels.

John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd

82-84 Sinclair Road, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 9PP

Employees: 38

Chief Executive: Mr A Leigh

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Anke Heggie

Tel: 01224 870 010

John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd, which has been trading since 1987, is winning an Award for the first time. It exports Scottish smoked salmon to a total of 23 countries. The company aims at the top end of the market, supplying the world's finest hotels and restaurants, along with supermarkets and wholesalers, with a labour-intensive product, using the traditional method of hand filleting fresh salmon, dry curing by hand and smoking over open fires in brick kilns. To complement the range the company also produces fine Gravadlax; and in addition offers a select range of fresh fish to its clientele. John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd has been holder of the Royal Warrant "By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen" for a number of years, establishing themselves firmly as one of the last remaining mastersmokers in Scotland.

Semefab (Scotland) Ltd

Newark Road North, Eastfield Industrial Estate, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4NT

Employees: 83

Joint Managing Director: Mr A James

Ultimate Parent: Semelab Plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Allan James

Tel: 01592 630 630

Semefab (Scotland) Ltd, which started trading in 1986, manufactures semiconductors, application-specific integrated circuits and processed silicon wafers using diverse microelectronic and micromechanical technologies. The company won an Export Award in 1994. Exports increased by over 120% in the past three years, the main markets being Europe, Asia and the USA. Semefab's end customers compete on a global scale in the security, safety, telecommunication, home automation, industrial electronics and automotive markets. Semefab has achieved considerable success in supplying integrated circuits to the automotive market in recent years. These products form the core functions in electronic assemblies supplied to BMW, VW, Audi, Porche and Ford. Participating in this market has required the adherence to stringent technical and quality standards and has resulted in significant investments in equipment and people.

Silberline Limited

Banbeath Road, Leven, Fife KY8 5HD

Employees: 108

Managing Director: Dr D R King

Ultimate Parent: Silberline Inc (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Liz Rougvie, Indigo Bridge Limited

Tel: 01592 652 435

Silberline Limited manufactures high performance aluminium pigments to give metallic effects especially in automotive paints, but also in industrial paints, inks and plastics. It is winning an Award for the third time, its previous successes having been in 1981 and 1986. It commenced business in 1975. Its exports doubled over six years and consistently amounted to three-quarters of its total sales. They go mainly to Europe, where the company's most notable success is to sell substantially in the domestic markets of its main competitors (Germany and France).

Singletons Dairy Ltd

Mill Farm, Longridge, Preston, Lancashire PR3 3AN

Employees: 81

Joint Owners: Mr W Riding and Mrs Tilly Carefoot

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: John Carr

Tel: 01772 782 112

Singletons Dairy Ltd is winning its first Award. Established in 1934, it is a producer of quality cheese which also provides a loading and shipping service for other cheese makers. Main markets are USA, Belgium, Sweden, Holland and Germany. Building on a grant from MAFF, the company, in co-operation with other cheese makers, offers a full range of cheese direct from the producers to the distributor or retailer. In order to combat consumers' ignorance of British cheese over £100,000 has been invested in each of the last 3 years in in-store demonstrations, tastings and seminars in the company's main markets.

Smith & Ouzman Ltd

Brampton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 9AH

Employees: 102

Managing Director: Mr C J Smith

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr C J Smith, Managing Director

Tel: 01323 524 000

Smith & Ouzman are winning an Award for the first time. Trading from 1946, the company designs and manufactures security printed documents. Its main markets are in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. It built up its export business starting with the supply of examination certificates for Councils and Boards. From this has developed significant business in the supply of ballot papers and other election material to government printers. In the past three years exports have increased more than three fold as has the proportion of output exported.

Software 2000 Limited

The Magdalen Centre, Oxford Science Park, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX4 4GA

Employees: 58

Financial Director: Mr P Lismer

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Tony Harris, Technical Director

Tel: 01865 784 203

Software 2000(SW2000) is the largest independent developer of printer driver technologies in the world. The company licenses software for the Microsoft® Windows and Macintosh operating systems to printer OEMs such as Canon, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Lexmark, OKIDATA, QMS, Samsung, Sharp and Xerox on a world-wide basis. The company's advanced technologies enhance print quality and speed and accelerate time-to-market by simplifying printer driver development. SW2000 has offices in the USA, Japan and in Oxford where it has been developing and exporting these products since 1989. Over the past three years, SW2000 has achieved 65% annual growth, quadrupled export earnings and has built up a base of over 50 million users world-wide. These achievements have been recognised by a third, consecutive Queen's Award (the company won Export Awards in 1998 and 1999).

Special Contingency Risks Ltd

85 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V OHA
Employees: 13
Managing Director: Mr D R Milne
Ultimate Parent: TAI Ltd (UK)
Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Johanna Holliday

Tel: 020 7208 5211

Special Contingency Risks Ltd is a specialist insurance broker, handling Special Personal Risks and Product Contamination insurance and risk management consultancy services. The Company has been operating for over twenty years and has built up a global client base, placing 99% of its business into the London market. Special Contingency Risks also provides confidential security and crisis management training and advice, specifically aimed at reducing exposure to risk.

Spectrum Technologies PLC

Bridgend Science Park, Bridgend CF31 3NA
Employees: 42
Chairman and Chief Executive: Dr P H Dickinson
Ultimate Parent: Not applicable
Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Elaine Hardy, Sales & Marketing Administration Manager

Tel: 01656 655 437

Spectrum Technologies Plc, a small company manufacturing laser wire marking and processing systems, started trading, as Spectrum Technologies Ltd, in 1989. It won an Export Award under that title in 1995. Exports have more than doubled over the past 3 years, the main markets being USA, Japan, France, Spain and Mexico. The company has achieved a high level of success in export markets following the adoption of the novel UV (ultra violet) laser wire marking process technology developed by Spectrum as the new aerospace industry standard.

Spheric Engineering Limited

Fleming Way, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2SQ

Employees: 24

Managing Director: Mr J R Pratt

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Barry Smithard

Tel: 020 8368 9666

Spheric Engineering Limited, established in 1967, won its first Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1985. This time the Queen's Award is for Enterprise, International Trade. The company manufactures high precision balls and modified balls - in slice, section, sector, shell and segment forms - ball gauges and standard reference balls. Nearly three quarters of its exports, which have increased by over 300% in the last three years, are to customers in the European automotive, aerospace and other precision engineering industries. Other important overseas markets include North America and the Far East. The company has wholly owned subsidiaries in Germany and USA. Over the past three years the proportion of total output exported has increased from just under 60% to nearly 90%.

Stephenson Group Limited

PO Box 305, Listerhills Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 IHY

Employees: 95

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr T R Bentley

Ultimate Parent: Thos. Bentley and Son Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Malcolm Dyer, Whitakers

Tel: 0113 269 7000

Established in 1856, Stephenson Group Ltd is winning an Award for the first time. It manufactures speciality chemicals for the paper, printing, rubber and textile industries and speciality bases for toilet soap. It sells to nearly 60 markets worldwide. Over three years, it increased its exports by two-thirds; they now represent more than fifty per cent of total sales. Particular successes have been chemicals for de-inking paper, where the company has a top three position in the world market, and the relatively new soap bases, where overseas earnings have grown to £1.5 million.

Sunseeker International (Boats) Limited

27 West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HX

Employees: 740

Managing Director: Mr R Braithwaite MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Miss Jacqueline Phillipson

Tel: 01202 494 008

Sunseeker International (Boats) Limited, which manufactures luxury power boats in sizes ranging from 34 ft to 84 ft in length, was established in 1969. The company won Awards in 1987, 1989 and 1994. Exports increased by almost £16m over the past three years. The company's main markets are USA, Spain, Germany and South Africa. The success of this internationally renowned boat builder is based upon the quality and high reputation of the products and vigorous marketing and selling.

Targus Europe Ltd

527 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 5DZ

Employees: 44

Managing Director: Mr Brett M Johnson

Ultimate Parent: Targus Group International (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Louise Broomby, Marketing Manager

Tel: 020 8607 7000

Targus Europe manufactures and distributes carry cases, security, power, connectivity, input/output and USB products for portable computers. Founded in 1983 and headquartered in London, Targus Europe is a subsidiary of Targus Group International, the recognised leading global supplier of mobile solutions for portable computers. Targus Europe wins its second Queen's Award, having won the Award for Export Achievement in 1989. With 14 offices throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Targus Europe's client base includes corporate customers, retail, wholesale and mail order distributors and leading PC notebook suppliers including: Dell, IBM, Compaq, Toshiba, Hewlett-Packard, Fujitsu, Acer and Sony. Targus Europe's overseas sales have trebled over the last three years with exports representing 60% of the total sales.

Technology Publishing Limited

1st Floor, Glen House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5AJ

Employees: 21

Managing Director: Mr C Trayhorn

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Nikki Wood

Tel: 020 7447 7777

Technology Publishing Limited started business in 1996. It produces business-to-business journals and internet web sites for the high-tech manufacturing industry, which are issued free. Its overseas earnings from USA, Germany, Netherlands, France and Italy come from advertising, marketing services and book subscriptions. By utilising internet technology and e-mail marketing techniques the company has been able to penetrate markets previously dominated by the leading American and German business-to-business publishers.

Tesla Engineering Limited

Water Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 3EA

Employees: 127

Managing Director: Dr M C Begg

Ultimate Parent: Tesla Magnetic Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Dr M C Begg, Managing Director

Tel: 01903 743 941

Tesla Engineering Limited, formed in 1993, wins an International Trade Award. The company sells electromagnets to manufacturers of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Instruments, to High Energy Physics laboratories and to manufacturers of other high technology equipment. Main markets are Netherlands, USA, Japan, Germany and Switzerland. In Japan the company's product is jointly badged with Mitsubishi, who have subcontracted to it the magnet part of some large projects. Exports more than doubled over 6 years, more than 90% of production being exported

Traditional Weatherwear Ltd

10A Blairlinn Estate, Cumbernauld, Glasgow G67 2TW

Employees: 75

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr R Veitch MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Daniel Dunko, Managing Director "Mackintosh"

Tel: 01236 723 338

Traditional Weatherwear Ltd, which was established in 1974, is winning an Award for the first time. The company specialises in the manufacture of genuine Mackintoshes which are fully hand-made by craftsmen from Double Texture Rubberised fabrics especially cotton. In addition it exports other quality outerwear and quilted garments under its own "Mackintosh" label. Traditional Weatherwear Ltd supplies top quality design houses in France, Italy and the USA under customers' own labels and leading retail outlets in Western Europe, America and the Far East under their own brand label. Particular success has been achieved in Japan where sales have grown in five years from £150,000 to £1 million. This has enabled the company to employ twelve additional apprentices and ensure the continuation of a craft initiated by Charles Mackintosh two hundred years ago.

Tripes Receptor Research Ltd

Bude-Stratton Business Park, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8LY

Employees: 69

Vice-President and General Manager European Research Operations: Dr. P. Hecht

Ultimate Parent: Tripes Inc (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Peter Hecht

Tel: 01288 359 359

Tripes is an information-based pharmaceutical research company that accelerates the discovery of new medicines by life science companies worldwide. Using highly sophisticated chemistry-focussed software, Tripes Receptor Research designs and produces libraries of chemical compounds that support the drug discovery process. These chemistries and the subsequent high-throughput synthesis of compounds using precision robots, are carried out in the Bude laboratories. State-of-the-art technologies for high-speed analysis and purification have also been developed at this facility. Tripes screening libraries have expanded to include over 50,000 chemical compounds in the last year. With half of the staff of more than 80 employees holding PhD degrees, Tripes Receptor Research has established a fast-growing international reputation for excellence in its scientific research. Results of this work promise considerable benefits to many people throughout the world.

University of Westminster

309 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL

Employees: 1522

Vice Chancellor and Rector: Dr G M Copland

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Martin Herrema, Press and PR Manager

Tel: 020 7911 5762

The University of Westminster dates from 1992. Previously it was founded in 1838 under Royal patronage as the Royal Polytechnic Institution. It offers a range of degree programmes. All its overseas earnings come from student fees and from teaching English as a Foreign Language during summer vacations. Students come from all over the world with USA, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Norway as the main markets. The University has invested heavily in course development in areas with a clear international relevance such as journalism, international law, commercial music and international relations/diplomacy.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to confer Her Awards in 2000 upon the following business units in recognition of their outstanding achievement in innovation:

AVS Graphics Ltd t/a Omnibus Systems
Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited
Aspects Software Ltd
BG Technology Ltd
Beamech Group Ltd
British Gas Services Limited
Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group Plc
Celsis International PLC
Codemasters Group Ltd
Crocodile Clips Limited
Davis Schottlander & Davis Ltd
Fox Brothers & Company Limited
Genevac Limited
Gripple Limited
Hydra-Tight Ltd (Power Generation Group)
Imagination Technologies Ltd - PowerVR Technology Division
L. H. Group Services Ltd
Lightbody Celebration Cakes Ltd
Eli Lilly and Company Limited
Marconi Applied Technologies Ltd, Safety & Security Group
Marks and Spencer Womenswear Group, Lingerie
J. McIntyre Machinery Ltd
Heatric, A Division of Meggitt (UK) Ltd
Micromass UK Limited
Nortel Networks (Northern Ireland) Ltd
Optare Group Ltd
Sondex Limited
Strix Ltd
Styles and Wood Limited
TNT UK Limited
Ultra Electronics Card Systems
Zychem Ltd

AVS Graphics Ltd t/a Omnibus Systems

Stanford House, Stanford-on-Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PY

Employees: 117

Chairman: Mr Glyn Powell-Evans

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Glyn Powell-Evans

Tel: 08705 003 205

Omnibus Systems gains the Award for the development of its television station automation system. This encompasses every aspect of operation from lines-in to transmission and from remote camera control to routing. The system is modular and can address all or any part of a station's control or automation requirements.

Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited

Christchurch Way, Greenwich, London SE10 0AG

Employees: 865

Director, UK: Mr J W Burchell

Ultimate Parent: Alcatel (France)

Contact for press enquiries: Lesley Hepden

Tel: 020 8293 2413

Alcatel Submarine Networks Limited, which also gain an International Trade Award, gain the Award for the development of equipment for high capacity intercontinental optical transmission systems. The equipment comprises submerged repeaters, equaliser units and branching units together with land-based terminal equipment. Using wavelength-division multiplexing(WDM) – transmitting signals at more than one optical wavelength along the same fibre – increases capacity at relatively small extra cost and can route individual wavelengths in different directions at cable junctions (the branching units), creating all-optical undersea networks. This is the first occasion that the unit has gained two Awards in the same year.

Aspects Software Ltd

2nd Floor, 124/125 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AD

Employees: 58

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Neil Stewart

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Neil Stewart

Tel: 0131 225 9500

Aspects Software Ltd gains the Award for the development of powerful PC based tools to test, develop, monitor and simulate Smart Card information and application. The SmarTest product allows users to plug into the interface of a smart card and its associated terminal for testing and diagnosis. Smart Cards at present are mainly used in the GSM mobile phone markets and the financial sector. Smart card technology in GSM and finance has evolved rapidly over the last 5 years and Aspects continually develops its tools to keep abreast of changes. Aspects was first to market this type of product and as a result has achieved a significant leading position in the global market place.

BG Technology Ltd

Gas Research & Technology Centre, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3GR

Employees: 620

Managing Director: Mr J R Bennett

Ultimate Parent: BG Group plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Terry Williams

Tel: 01509 282 810

BG Technology Ltd gains the Award jointly with British Gas Services Limited for the development and implementation of a field system for fault diagnostics and repair of domestic gas and electric appliances. The system, which can be used on over 4000 types of appliances, exploits a number of technology advances including expert systems, neural networks and mobile computing and communication systems. It is already being used daily by more than 5000 service engineers in the UK, enabling them to deliver a more convenient service to customers whilst improving their own productivity. BG Technology is a world leader in the development and application of innovative technologies supporting international energy, utility and engineering companies. The company provides services ranging from technical consultancy and advice through to product development and testing.

Beamech Group Ltd

Tenax Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1JT

Employees: 89

Chairman: Mr J B Blackwell

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: J B Blackwell or S W Blackwell

Tel: 0161 848 0316

Beamech Group Ltd win the Award for a major advance in the design of continuous flexible foam slab stock machines. Previously, the manufacture of high quality flexible polyester and polyether foams had necessitated the use of long, complicated, inclined conveyors to enable dissolved gases in the mixed reactants to escape. The new machine obviates the use of inclined conveyors by using a specially designed pour plate system onto which the expanding, but still relatively low viscosity, mixed reactants are poured before being moved onto a horizontal conveyor. Installation of this machine can save up to £500,000 on conveyors and building costs.

British Gas Services Limited

30 The Causeway, Staines, Middlesex TW18 3BY

Employees: 8500

Managing Director: Mr Roger Wood

Ultimate Parent: Centrica plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Chris Wright, Press Officer

Tel: 01784 874 782

British Gas Services Limited gains the Award jointly with BG Technology Ltd for the development and implementation of a field system for fault diagnosis and repair of domestic appliances and central heating systems. The field system exploits a number of technology advances including expert systems, neural networks and mobile computing and communication systems. In addition to providing detailed operating information, parts lists and fault diagnosis on more than 4000 types of gas appliances, the system was also required to identify heating system faults. This was achieved by development of a low cost sensor that clips on to the mains cable to a central heating pump and links to a lap top PC.

Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group Plc

Lower Road, Glemsford, Suffolk CO10 7QS
Employees: 400
Managing Director: Mr E Atkin
Ultimate Parent: Cannon Avent Group plc(UK)
Contact for press enquiries: Andrea Bonner

Tel: 01702 588 270

The Baby Products Division of Cannon AVENT Group plc, which also wins an International Trade Award, gains the Award for the development of the AVENT ISIS breast pump. There is an increasing demand for expressed breastmilk, for example by working mothers. ISIS provides a fast, safe, effective, reliable and enjoyable means of expressing milk. In hospital trials, it proved as effective as large electric pumps, but at a fraction of the price. The pump incorporates two patented innovations. The first, a silicone rolling diaphragm which creates the vacuum by stretching, thus eliminating seals, friction and leaks. The second, a cushion which massages the breast and is designed to simulate the baby's suckling, stimulating the 'let down' reflex and hence the flow of milk.

Celsis International PLC

The Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0FX
Employees: 30
Chief Executive: Dr J Rowell OBE
Ultimate Parent: Not applicable
Contact for press enquiries: Miss Jenny Parsons

Tel: 01223 435 213

Celsis International PLC gain the Award for the Celsis Advance System for personal care product testing. This comprises instruments, reagents, software and associated support and documentation for the rapid detection of microbial contamination in cosmetics, toiletries and household detergents. An automated system can handle more than 150 samples at a time, reducing the time required for the detection of most micro-organisms to less than 24 hours, compared to the 5 to 7 days required using conventional techniques.

Codemasters Group Ltd

Stoneythorpe, Southam, Warwickshire CV47 2DL

Employees: 288

Managing Director: Mr N Wheelwright

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Michael Hayes

Tel: 01926 816 006

Codemasters Group Ltd win the Award for the development of computer and video games. Software developments must maximise performance within the constraints of the games console or PC on which they will run, achieving optimum balance between graphics, game play and sound. Specific innovations include Dynamic Node Skeletons enabling the creation of free-flowing characters that move fluently, duplicating real life movement and the input of car telemetry from actual race teams to accurately recreate engine and performance characteristics of real racing cars.

Crocodile Clips Limited

11 Randolph Place, Edinburgh EH3 7TA

Employees: 10

Managing Director: Mr A Hall

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Dominic Sharratt

Tel: 0131 226 1511

Crocodile Clips Limited win the Award for the development of Crocodile Physics – a software simulator for teaching physics in secondary education. Industrial and University simulators are highly specialised, often slow and require extensive training. The company had to develop special algorithms to produce educational simulators which are fast in operation and interactive. Crocodile Physics covers a wide field including optics, sound, electricity, work, energy and mechanics.

Davis Schottlander & Davis Ltd

Fifth Avenue, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 2WD

Employees: 46

Managing Director: Mr B Schottlander

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mark Schottlander

Tel: 01462 480 848

Davis Schottlander & Davis Ltd gain the Award for the development of low allergy dental gloves. Previous products could produce allergic reaction by users to natural latex rubber proteins and residual chemicals as well as irritation from the powders used to make them easier to put on. Identification of the proteins and residual chemicals led to the development of innovative production processes to reduce and monitor the levels of the allergenic substances. The company has created a market for their low allergy gloves by educating dentists about the dangers of existing gloves.

Fox Brothers & Company Limited

Tonedale Mills, Wellington, Somerset TA21 0AW

Employees: 50

Managing Director: Mr J Hudson

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Jack Hudson

Tel: 01823 662 271

Fox Brothers & Company Limited gain the Award for the development of lightweight wool and cashmere cloth. The company has been producing West of England Flannel for two hundred years. The demand has been for ever more lightweight materials. By producing finer woollen yarn and developing the technology to weave and finish them without breaking fibres the company has produced flannel cloths as light as the currently popular worsted suiting materials.

Genevac Limited

Farthing Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5AP

Employees: 65

Chairman/Managing Director: Dr M Cole

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Ms Emma Freeman

Tel: 01473 243 005

Genevac Limited gain the Award for the development of an improved centrifugal solvent evaporation system. These systems spin liquids in test tubes at high speeds under vacuum, the centrifugal force produced preventing vigorous boiling and spitting of the liquid. Previous systems were slow, hindering the pharmaceutical development industries. Genevac's innovations include stacking up to three levels of sample holders on a spindle, rotating it at higher speeds to more than double the centrifugal force and measurement and control of sample temperatures during operation. Latest developments are larger instruments with computer control to work with robotic laboratories.

Gripple Limited

The Old West Gun Works, Savile Street East, Sheffield S4 7UQ

Employees: 49

Executive Chairman: Mr H D Facey MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Hugh Facey

Tel: 0114 275 2255

Gripple Limited gain the Award for the innovative design of the Gripple, a device for joining and tensioning strands of wire and wire rope. Launched in 1988, the Gripple has many uses in agriculture, viticulture, construction and mining. Developments included replacing the original ball bearing locking mechanism by a geared toothed roller to cope with the increasing hardness of wires used in fruit trellising. A full range of agricultural Gripples including one for barbed wire, were developed. A range of Gripple Rope-Grips which are adjustable and releasable, and Gripple Hang-Fast, a system for the suspension of electrical trunking, pipework and ducting have recently been produced. The company developed a range of automatic and semi-automatic machines to manufacture the Gripple products and improve production efficiency and quality.

Hydra-Tight Ltd (Power Generation Group)

Bentley Road South, Darlaston, West Midlands WS10 8LQ

Employees: 20

Director: Mr G Simms

Ultimate Parent: Dover Corporation (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Tim Lewis

Tel: 0121 505 0600

Hydra-Tight Ltd (Power Generation Group) wins the Award for the development of a high temperature hydraulic nut. Essentially a hydraulic jack contained in a lockable nut, the device loads a bolt longitudinally and retains the load at temperatures of up to 600oC. Conventionally, bolts on joints had to be accurately tightened using heat, which is very slow, or torque, which could damage expensive fittings. Use of the hydraulic nut reduces down-time, in one case to ten minutes from several hours, saving millions of pounds in the power generation industry.

Imagination Technologies Ltd - PowerVR Technology Division

Home Park Estate, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8LZ

Employees: 112

Managing Director: Dr H Yassaie

Ultimate Parent: Imagination Technologies Group plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Harold, PR Manager

Tel: 01923 260 511

Imagination Technologies Ltd's PowerVR Technology division, which also wins an International Trade Award, wins the Innovation Award for the design of silicon chips for 3D graphics. The unique PowerVR graphics technology is licensed by international partners including: NEC and STMicroelectronics and is used in Sega's latest video games console, Dreamcast; the Naomi arcade system, which is used in the majority of new arcade machines worldwide; by numerous PC add-in and OEM customers and in the next generation of set-top boxes. The PowerVR approach to 3D graphics starts from the premise that taking a different algorithmic approach to 3D processing can eliminate all redundant processing and memory bottlenecks. This revolutionary approach keeps as much processing as possible on-chip, minimising costly accesses to off-chip memory and improving performance. This unique technique of tile-based deferred texturing has been successfully patented worldwide.

L. H. Group Services Ltd

Howard House, Graycar Business Park, Barton under Needwood, Burton on Trent DE13 8EN

Employees: 203

Group Chairman: Mr G Lee

Ultimate Parent: L. H. Group Holdings Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Christopher Saunders

Tel: 01283 722 600

L.H.Group Services Ltd gain the Award for the remanufacture of locomotive engines through sustained innovation in the process and organisation of such work. They set out to remanufacture units to a standard that would support a 500,000 mile warranty. Various components showing high failure rates were selected and data for a 12-month period was analysed. The train operating companies were persuaded to accept instrumentation on board scheduled trains which yielded the information needed to modify remanufacturing processes so that the half million mile warranty was realistic.

Lightbody Celebration Cakes Ltd

73 Bothwell Road, Hamilton ML3 0DW

Employees: 330

Chairman: Mr R M Lightbody

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr R M Lightbody

Tel: 01698 285 227

Lightbody Celebration Cakes Ltd gain the Award for successfully managing the process of transition from retail baker to supplier to several supermarket chains. A number of innovations in the cake industry were introduced. These included: 1) computer aided design enabling rapid changes in the product range based on fashion changes, 2) links with local colleges to secure the skill base, 3) a new staff grading system that recognised the skills required to produce highly crafted cakes.

Eli Lilly and Company Limited

Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XA

Employees: 2081

General Manager: Mr D W Rice

Ultimate Parent: Eli Lilly and Company (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Derek Anthony

Tel: 01256 315 353

Eli Lilly and Company Limited gain the Award for Zyprexa, the trade name for Olanzapine, a compound for the treatment of schizophrenia. Benefits associated with the use of Zyprexa include effective control of positive symptoms, improvements in negative and depressive symptoms, improvements in the quality of life, fewer side effects and hence less likelihood of re-hospitalisation. The product was granted approval in the US and EU in 1996, is now approved in 87 countries and has been prescribed to 3.5 million patients worldwide.

Marconi Applied Technologies Ltd, Safety & Security Group

106 Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2QU

Employees: 9

Managing Director: Keith Attwood

Ultimate Parent: Marconi plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ann Marsh

Tel: 01245 453 735

Marconi Applied Technologies Ltd, Safety & Security Group, now part of the Commercial Sensing Group, gain the Award for the Argus family of thermal imaging cameras widely used by emergency and rescue services throughout the world. The Argus range is based on the innovative application of infrared technology originally utilised for surveillance and now incorporating best-in-class solid state sensor technology which has significantly improved reliability. Ease of use and ruggedness are key features of the ergonomic design, which allows flexible, safe handling under the harshest conditions.

Marks and Spencer Womenswear Group, Lingerie

Michael House, 47 - 67 Baker Street, London W1A 1DN

Employees: 85

Business Unit Director: Rory Scott

Ultimate Parent: Marks and Spencer plc (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Melanie Baldock

Tel: 020 7268 3049

Marks and Spencer Womenswear Group (Lingerie) gain the Award for "Secret Support", a hidden engineered supportive liner inside vests, bodices, bodysuits etc. It incorporates innovative garment construction methods, and the use of sophisticated fabric technology. Ideal for strappy garments and products without straps, where it is difficult or undesirable to wear a bra. It is also incorporated into vest tops and is now being offered in some dresses and outerwear garments.

J. McIntyre Machinery Ltd

Unit G, Acorn Park Industrial Estate, Harrimans Lane, Dunkirk, Nottingham NG7 2SD

Employees: 36

Managing Director: Mrs S Johnson

Ultimate Parent: Nottingham Metal Recyclers Ltd (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mrs S Johnson

Tel: 0115 986 2426

J. McIntyre Machinery Limited gain the Award for the design and development of TARDIS, an aluminium dross cooling system designed to increase metal yields and improve the environment in melting plants. The benefits to the customer are an increase in overall metal recovery from aluminium drosses and an elimination of smoke and dust emissions resulting in improved foundry working conditions. TARDIS machines are now operating successfully in aluminium foundries worldwide and typically achieve paybacks of under a year.

Heatric, A Division of Meggitt (UK) Ltd

46 Holton Road, Holton Heath, Poole, Dorset BH16 6LT

Employees: 48

Managing Director: Dr A M Johnston

Ultimate Parent: Meggitt PLC (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: David Newton, Finance Director

Tel: 01202 627 000

Heatric, a division of Meggitt (UK) Ltd, which also gained an Export Award in each of the last two years, gains the Innovation Award for developing a novel "printed circuit" heat exchanger (PCHE), which is much smaller and lighter than conventional units but can work at the high temperatures and pressures involved in gas and chemicals processing. As a result production gas and chemicals processing rigs can be made smaller, saving several million pounds in production and installation costs.

Micromass UK Limited

Floats Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 9LZ

Employees: 334

Chairman: Mr R A Williams

Ultimate Parent: Waters Corporation (USA)

Contact for press enquiries: Dr Mark McDowall

Tel: 0161 718 4522

Micromass UK Limited, which also wins an International Trade Award, gains the Innovation Award for introducing the Q-TOF (Q = quadrupole; TOF = Time of Flight) analyser incorporating the following innovations in mass spectrometry design: 1) Electrospray Ionisation; 2) A collision cell, whereby the individual peptides separated by the first mass spectrometer are passed into a cell containing argon gas enabling the breaking down of peptides into constituent amino acids; 3) A second mass spectrometer stage and time of flight analyser. Compared to previous mass spectrometers, the Q-TOF has improved sensitivity 100 fold and increased speed of analysis 10 fold. As V.G. Analytical, the company won the Award for Technological Achievement in 1987.

Nortel Networks (Northern Ireland) Ltd

Northern Ireland Telecommunications Engineering Centre, Doagh Road, Newtownabbey, Country Antrim BT36 6XA

Employees: 1360

Vice President, International Optical Networks Development: Professor P Schuddeboom

Ultimate Parent: Nortel Networks Corporation (Canada)

Contact for press enquiries: Roger Hope

Tel: 02890 367 054

Nortel Networks (Northern Ireland) Ltd gain the Award for developing a range of commercially successful Metropolitan, Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH), Fibre Optics Multiplexers, operating at 600 Mbits and 2.4Gbits, incorporating three major innovations: functional integration, hardware architecture optimised for extensive reuse/scalability, and comprehensive hardware simulation.

Optare Group Ltd

Manston Lane, Leeds LS15 8SU

Employees: 428

Managing Director: Mr R Richardson MBE

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: R Richardson or Martin Hayes

Tel: 0113 264 5182 or 020 7437 7955

Optare Group gain the Award for the design and development of the Solo low floor midibus. The vehicle has no internal steps at the entrance/exit, and the majority of the floor is at a height of only 30cm. The normal access step height can be lowered to assist entry when elderly, or semi-ambulatory passengers or mothers with pushchairs wish to enter the bus. Other features are designed to enhance passenger comfort/safety and improve vehicle maintenance.

Sondex Limited

Ford Lane, Bramshill, Hook, Hampshire RG27 0RH

Employees: 74

Managing Director: Mr M Perry

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mr M Perry

Tel: 0118 932 6755

Sondex Limited gain the Award for the development and commercial success of a Multi-Finger Imaging Tool (MIT) used for measurement of corrosion or damage in oil and gas wells. The MIT is lowered to the bottom of the well, the device is opened and a ring of sensors or fingers come into contact with the circumference of the well. As the MIT is winched to the surface each sensor measures the position of the wall of the well, and the data recorded enables detection of problems and determination of necessary precautions or remedial action.

Strix Ltd

Forrest House, Ronaldsway, Isle of Man IM9 2RG

Employees: 440

Executive Chairman: Mr E Davies

Ultimate Parent: Sula Group Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr E Davies

Tel: 01624 822 991

Strix Ltd gain the Award for the creation and development of an 'Under-floor Heating System' for domestic electric kettles. The development has moved the element to the underside of the kettle's base, leaving smooth internal surfaces. As a result the kettle is both easy to clean and aesthetically more pleasing.

Styles and Wood Limited

St James's House, Pendleton Way, Salford, Manchester M6 5FW

Employees: 121

Chief Executive and Chairman: Mr Gerard E Quiligotti

Ultimate Parent: Maraq Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Neil A Davies

Tel: 0161 954 0311

Styles and Wood Ltd gain the Award for innovation in the delivery of Retail Property Services. Customer for Life is the organisation's established relationship management programme, which sees Dedicated Teams provide support to over 30 of Britain's top retailers. These teams are selected to match the needs of each customer's unique demands and the working relationships that develop have significantly improved service delivery, reduced costs and have encouraged innovation. Live construction projects are nationwide and demonstrate innovations in procurement, project implementation, partnering and the supply chain. Styles & Wood's modern approach to contracting continues to set new standards in Retail Property Services.

TNT UK Ltd

TNT Express House, Holly Lane, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 2RY

Employees: 5657

Managing Director TNT Express Services UK & Ireland: Mr T Bell

Ultimate Parent: TNT Post Group (Netherlands)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr David Hare, Public Relations and Communications Manager

Tel: 01827 303 030 – 07836 785 728(Mobile)

TNT UK Ltd gain the Award in recognition of the continuous innovation that has seen it achieve outstanding results in the business-to-business express delivery market. In the last 22 years TNT has repeatedly revolutionised the UK transport industry with numerous 'first to market' service propositions. TNT was: the first carrier to introduce a next-day nationwide delivery service; the first carrier to offer time-definite next-day service options; the first carrier to provide a nationwide sameday delivery service. As competitors emulated these innovations TNT maintained its market-leading position by providing the highest levels of service reliability and customer care and by becoming the first company in its sector to provide a comprehensive range of business-to-business e-commerce solutions. Customers now use our on-line facilities to book parcel collections, track the progress of shipments and obtain proof of delivery.

Ultra Electronics Card Systems

Waverley House, Hampshire Road, Granby Estate, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9XD

Employees: 30

Managing Director: Mr R Coles

Ultimate Parent: Ultra Electronics Holdings PLC (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Ray Coles

Tel: 01305 784 738

Ultra Electronics Card Systems, a subsidiary of Ultra Electronics Ltd, gain the Award for the MAGICARD range of dye sublimation ID card printers. A thermal transfer process known as dye sublimation transfers colours from a carrier ribbon onto the surface of the card. The printing process requires multiple passes of the card under the thermal print head and is carried out using complex mechanical movements and precise registration of the successive layers.

Zychem Ltd

Unit 1 Deanway Business Park, Wilmslow Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3HW

Employees: 7

Managing Director: Mr P M Eccles

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Philip M Eccles

Tel: 01625 528 811

Zychem Ltd gain the Award for a unique, environmentally friendly, coated paper. One side is coated with a moisture resistant polyethylene film and the other with an innovative polymeric film containing microspheres which expand on heating, resulting in a three dimensional image of the original which the blind and partially sighted can feel.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to confer Her Awards in 2000 upon the following business units in recognition of their outstanding environmental achievement:

Crosfield Limited

Paxton Division of McKechnie Components Limited

The Renewable Energy Company t/a Ecotricity

Strattóns Hotel

TSL Group PLC

Tesco Distribution Ltd

D. W. Windsor Ltd

Crosfield Limited

Bank Quay, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1AB
Employees: 437
Chairman/Chief Executive Officer: Mr J D Hinnigan
Ultimate Parent: ICI (UK)
Contact for press enquiries: Dr A L Lovell

Tel: 01925 416 478

Crosfield gain the Award for the development of MACROSORB systems, which remove the colour from waste waters resulting from the dyeing of textiles. The use of MACROSORB in the dyeing industry enables up to 70% of the treated water to be recycled in the dye house. When the recycled water is hot from its previous processing it also provides significant energy savings. MACROSORB systems are in use in the UK, Netherlands, Spain, China and the Philippines.

Paxton Division of McKechnie Components Limited

Newfield Close, Green Lane, Walsall WS2 7PB
Employees: 393
Managing Director: Mr K Battrick
Ultimate Parent: McKechnie plc (UK)
Contact for press enquiries: John Barnes, Marketing Manager

Tel: 01922 726 060

The Paxton Division of McKechnie Components Limited gains the Award jointly with Tesco Distribution Ltd for the development of the Maxi-Nest, a reusable transport packaging system. It is fully compatible with Tesco's previous reusable transit packaging system, yet able to nest inside each other when empty to occupy just under half of the space of earlier designs. The development has enabled space and vehicle journeys to be reduced.

The Renewable Energy Company t/a Ecotricity

Axiom House, Station Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3AP

Employees: 13

Managing Director: Mr D Vince

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Clare Summers, Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Tel: 01453 756 111

The Renewable Energy Company, t/a Ecotricity, gains the Award for the supply of 'green' electricity in the UK and Europe. Ecotricity is electricity derived from sources which are significantly less polluting and more sustainable than conventional fuel sources, and these include wind power, hydro power, landfill gas and sewage sludge. The first and largest supplier of 'green' electricity, the company supplies its Ecotricity at the same price as 'brown' or conventional electricity to create a mass market, to help sustain the environment for future generations. The company have developed an innovative supply model known as Embedded Supply whereby local power is traded to local users, without the need to use the National Grid.

Strattons Hotel

'Strattons', 4 Ash Close, Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7NH

Employees: 9

Joint Proprietors: Mr and Mrs L B Scott

Ultimate Parent: Not applicable

Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Vanessa Scott

Tel: 01760 723 845

Strattons Hotel gains the Award for the management of a private hotel in an environmentally friendly manner. A 19% reduction has been achieved in electricity consumption through a range of energy efficiency projects and water savings have been achieved by a variety of means including the collection of rainwater in an old underground tank.

TSL Group PLC

PO Box 6, Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 6DG

Employees: 300

Managing Director: Mr P J P Sabben

Ultimate Parent: Compagnie de Saint-Gobain (France)

Contact for press enquiries: Mrs Patricia Marshall

Tel: 0191 262 5311

TSL Group PLC gains the Award for the development of a pollution free process for the production of Spectrosil, a synthetic vitreous silica manufactured by the company. The process gives a higher yield of Spectrosil than the previous process and the purity of the Spectrosil produced is higher than was previously attainable. The only waste products are carbon dioxide and water, unlike the previous process and that of most of the competitive processes which lead to the generation of chlorine and hydrochloric acid as toxic by-product gases.

Tesco Distribution Ltd

Travellers Lane North, Welham Green, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 8XF

Employees: 8470

Head of Engineering: Mr N Baranowski

Ultimate Parent: Tesco PLC (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Russell Craig

Tel: 01992 644 346

Tesco Distribution Ltd gains the Award jointly with the Paxton Division of McKechnie Components Limited for the development of the Maxi-Nest, a reusable transport packaging system. It is fully compatible with Tesco's previous reusable transit packaging system, yet able to nest inside each other when empty to occupy just under half of the space of earlier designs. The development has enabled space and vehicle journeys to be reduced.

D W Windsor Ltd

Marsh Lane, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9QL

Employees: 72

Managing Director: Mr D Lovejoy

Ultimate Parent: David Webster Group Limited (UK)

Contact for press enquiries: Mr Tom Webster

Tel: 01920 466 499

D W Windsor Limited gains the Award for the development of the "Diamond Optic" to improve the effectiveness of street lighting and at the same time to control light pollution. The optical system comprises four controlled reflectors, each of which reflects a proportion of the beam with a controlled vertical spread and direction to avoid glare. The four beams can be combined in a variety of ways to give a wide range of light distribution patterns on the ground.



10 DOWNING STREET

Pa

I need to reply to this. I
think you would enjoy it.
But unless you decide now
I will say no, while
leaving open the possibility
of a future visit.

✓ I will
discuss with
Cherie



10 DOWNING STREET

Pin

Aspen

I am happy to discuss this with
you, but you ought to discuss
it with Archie first.

✓
Get me to do it
on the plane.

C.C.: Jonathan Powell

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

February 7, 2001

Lord Powell
Sagitta Asset Management Limited
Berkeley Square House, 4th Floor
Berkeley Square
London W1X5PM

Dear Charles:

I received your fax regarding Prime Minister Blair's inability to make a commitment at this time to come to Aspen this summer to receive the Institute's Statesman Award. Since we would very much like to be able to honor the Prime Minister this summer - and considering his scheduling difficulties - we would extend an open ended invitation and would plan a special event once we are assured of his acceptance. The August 4 event is one of our annual fundraisers and we need to proceed now with securing speakers. In any case, we are most grateful for your intervention and will hope to have the opportunity to hear the Prime Minister in the future. I am sure you understand our dilemma and will share this with the Prime Minister's office.

Best regards,

Henry E. Catto
Henry E. Catto

2010 Carmichael Road

P.O. Box 222

Queenstown, MD 21658

PH 410.827.7168

FX 410.827.9182

www.aspeninstitute.org



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone: 020 7270 4150
Facsimile: 020 7270 4160

*John Sawers
Michael Tatham*

*Do we want to
pursue?
Gets the PM back
very late.*

Our Reference: CVW026/059/00

29 January 2001

Magi Cleaver
Private Secretary
No 10

Dear Magi,

Magi → *W* *3/1* *file*
*I think we forget it. The PM will
want to get home, and it's not that
good a story. JH*

**POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO AIRBUS, TOULOUSE:
9 FEBRUARY 2001**

1. On our way back from Cahors, DCI Fletcher and I called on Derek Sharples, the Vice President International Relations, to discuss the suggestion that the Prime Minister might visit Airbus in Toulouse after the Franco-British Summit in Cahors on 9 February. The main purpose of the Prime Minister's visit would be to view the mock-up of the new Superjumbo A380 aircraft.

2. Airbus has a purpose built exhibition hall where all of their latest aircraft are on display, the mock-up of the A380 taking centre stage. Mr Sharples, who is clearly keen that the Prime Minister should pay a visit, envisaged that the visit could be restricted to no more than 30 minutes.

- 10 minutes with the Chief Executive in an office adjacent to the viewing area
- 15 minutes viewing the A380 mock-up
- 5 minutes Press opportunity on the platform by the A380

There is no doubt that there is enough here to fill 30 minutes. The mock-up of the A380 is impressive. On the press front, there is potential for a good photo opportunity.

3. The major drawback to including Airbus in the margins of the Summit is the time it will take to get there. Even with a police escort, it will be a good one-hour drive to Toulouse from Cahors. Travel by helicopter is a possibility (there is a landing pad at the Airbus complex) but this would reduce travelling time by only 20 minutes, when you take into account the distance from Cahors town to the airport, etc.

4. Airbus await our decision. I did not build up their hopes. Mr Sharples is aware that any visit might be a joint visit with the French, the Prime Minister alone, or none at all.

see Kinnigh overleaf.



Draft Timings (if a visit to Airbus is not included)

- 1815 Press Conference concludes
Drive to Cahors Airport
- 1830 RAF BAe 146 departs for London
- 1920 ETA RAF Northolt

Draft Timings (including visit to Airbus)

- 1815 Press Conference concludes
Drive to Toulouse
- 1915 Visit to Airbus HQ (5 minutes from Airport)
- 1945 Depart Airbus HQ by car
- 2000 RAF BAe 146 departs for London
- 2100 ETA RAF Northolt

(Helicopter travel to Toulouse would save approximately 20 minutes)

Yours ever
Gavin

Gavin A Mackay
Head of Ministerial Visits Section
Conference and Visits Group

Fourth Floor
Berkeley Square House
Berkeley Square
London W1J 6BL
Tel 020 7543 1577
Fax 020 7543 1578

Pa
I assume you
shd do it with to do Res?

From: LORD POWELL of BAYSWATER KCMG

26 January 2001

Jonathan Powell Esq.
Chief of Staff
No.10 Downing Street

Discuss.

[Signature]

R26

For Jonathan

Aspen

As I mentioned to you, Aspen have renewed their invitation to the Prime Minister, this time to receive the Aspen Institute's Statesman Award – previous recipients Bush, Thatcher, and George Mitchell – and be speaker at their Summer Dinner on 4 August. I enclose the letter of invitation from Henry Catto.

As you know, I believe the invitation has much to commend it, not just because I am a Trustee of the Institute, but because I think it would be a superb opportunity for a family holiday. It could also be combined with, for instance, speaking engagements in Texas or California: or even an eye-catching visit to the ranch in Texas.

Could someone in No.10 kindly send Henry Catto a holding reply.

Yem arr,
Chris

January 12, 2001

The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and
Minister for the Civil Service
#10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to come to Aspen to receive the Institute's highest honor, the Aspen Institute Statesman Award, and to be the speaker at the Aspen Institute's August 4 summer dinner. Previous recipients of this award at the Summer Gala have been President Bush, Lady Thatcher, and Senator George Mitchell.

There are other reasons to consider coming. First, you have a great following in the U.S., many of whom would be there and be thrilled to hear you speak. The Institute family consists of many of the most prominent people in American government, arts, letters, and business.

Second, you could of course combine a visit to Aspen with a speaking engagement elsewhere away from the East Coast. Both Texas and California are easy access from Aspen.

Third, on August 6-9, the Institute will sponsor a symposium entitled, "In Search of the Good City," which will feature noted urbanologists worldwide and at which you would be most welcome if you could spare the time.

Finally, Aspen is a most agreeable place to be, and we would hope you and your family could stay a while. There is a world-famous music festival, and the tennis, fishing, and biking are excellent. We can easily find accommodation for you all for however long you would like to say.

As former President Bush's Ambassador to the U.K., it would give me particular pleasure to welcome you to Aspen. Charles Powell, whom you know, is a Trustee of the Institute and can give you more background.

I very much hope that we will have the honor of your presence in the summer.

Yours sincerely,



Henry E. Catto
Vice Chairman



2010 Carmichael Road

P.O. Box 222

Queenstown, MD 21658

PH 410.827.7168

FX 410.827.9182

www.aspeninstitute.org



RESTRICTED



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

15 January 2001

London SW1A 2AH

cc: OP
JPA.
AW
AC/press
mc
kg

122
1

(Ple)

Dear John,

Summits in June 2002

Thank you for your letter of 21 December (not to all) about potential problems over dates in June 2002 for the G8 Summit in Canada, the European Council in Spain (or Brussels) and the Jubilee celebrations here.

Informal contacts have already taken place with the Canadians through the G8 Summit team and direct with the Spaniards through the Embassy in Madrid, to flag up the possible clash of one or other of the summits with The Queen's Golden Jubilee Birthday Parade on 15 June. As things stand, the Canadians had assumed that Jubilee celebrations would take place on 2 June and had indeed settled on the weekend of 15-16 June for the G8 Summit, with apparent Spanish agreement. They have already committed themselves to booking on 15-16 June and are conscious of the additional diary pressures associated with the French elections and the World Cup finals at the end of June and the World Youth Assembly in July. Incidentally, the European Commission and Japan have also asked that a final decision on dates be postponed.

The sensible way forward would be to tackle the Canadians first. We should now formally ask the Canadians at a senior level to move the dates of the Summit. We recommend that Jeremy Heywood take this up direct with the Canadian Sherpa as soon as possible.

The Spanish are not moving quickly and are, as yet, undecided on dates (and venue) for the European Council. But once the Canadians go firm on dates for the G8, and have agreed them with the Spanish, we should discuss dates for the European Council with the Spanish in Madrid, explaining that the Prime Minister would not be available on 15 June.

It would help in making the case for avoiding 15 June if you could confirm that the Prime Minister would be available in principle to attend both Summits on any other weekend in June.

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Copies of this letter go to Richard Abel (Cabinet Office), Sir Andrew Burns (Ottawa), Peter Torry (Madrid) and Sir Nigel Sheinwald (UKREP Brussels).

Yours ever,

Sherard

(Sherard Cowper-Coles)
Principal Private Secretary

John Sawers
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED



cc: HMA Berlin

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 January 2001

Dear Professor

Thank you for your letter, also signed by the Mayor of Aachen, Dr Jürgen Linden, inviting the Prime Minister to the International Charlemagne Prize Award Ceremony on 24 May.

The Prime Minister sends his apologies, but because of his heavy schedule around this time, he will be unable to attend.

I wish you and all those associated with this year's prize-giving every success.

*Yours sincerely**Michael Tatham*

MICHAEL TATHAM

Professor Dr Walter Eversheim



DRAFT REPLY TO PROFESSOR EVERSHEIM

Prof Dr Walter Eversheim
Sprecher des Direktoriums
Gesellschaft für die Verleihung
des International Karlpreises e.V
Theaterstraße 67
52062 Aachen

Thank you for your letter, also signed by the Mayor of Aachen, Dr Jürgen Linden, inviting the Prime Minister to the International Charlemagne Prize Award Ceremony on 24 May.

The Prime Minister sends his apologies, but because of his heavy schedule around this time, he will be unable to attend.

I wish you and all those associated with this year's prize-giving every success.

File

1000 Inbox

From: Anna Wechsberg
Date: 12 January 2001

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Cherie Booth
Jonathan Powell
David Miliband
John Sawers
Tim Livesey
Fiona Millar
Lucie McNeil
Kate Garvey

UJIA GALA DINNER: 15 JANUARY

You and Cherie are attending the UJIA Gala Dinner on Monday at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

The dinner is the UJIA's big annual fund-raising event. There will be around 800 people there, including the great and the good of the Jewish community (see attached list), plus a larger than usual proportion of the "new generation" of Jewish leaders (ie people in their 30s and 40s). Zvi Stauber, the new Israeli Ambassador will be there (his first big engagement since taking up his post).

But the main theme of the evening is young people. All the toasts, welcomes etc will be done by young people (aged 11 - 26) who have benefited in some way from the UJIA's programmes (education and leadership programmes, volunteer work in Israel, assistance with resettlement in Israel for Jews from eg the FSU). You are billed as the only adult speaker.

A running order is attached. You are speaking after the first course. You will be introduced by Louise Morganstein, 21, who worked as a volunteer in northern Israel as one of the first "Blair fellows" (fellowship which you inaugurated during your trip to Israel in 1998 - you met Louise then). A draft speech is

attached. It draws heavily on material provided by Jonathan Kestenbaum, which he in turn discussed with Michael Levy. You will speak from the stage along one side of the room (set up with a lectern plus 2 big screens behind).

There will be some mingling time towards the end of the main course, followed by a short presentation by young people (including a theatre group from Liverpool). We have told the organisers that you will leave at 9:45pm immediately after the theatre group (presenting a Beatles medley!) – ideally you would get up to congratulate/meet the performers and then slip out.

There will be Jewish press present, but no others.

You should be aware that we have had a handful of letters objecting to you lending your support to an organisation which repatriates Jews to Israel (some implying a (false) link with illegal settlements). There may be an anti-Israel demonstration outside the hotel when you arrive (we will take you in the back way if necessary).

ANNA WECHSBERG

From: Jonathan Powell
Date: 8 January 2001

GEOFFREY NORRIS

cc: Anji Hunter
Kate Garvey
Alastair Campbell
Jeremy Heywood
Simon Virley
David Miliband
Julian Braithwaite

IOD

Jo P
I suggest a small
change to make it clearer to
be in front of the
audience - J.P.

George Cox raised the IOD bid for Tony to address their annual conference on 25 April today. I explained that it was simply not possible on that date. The IOD might however provide a good platform for a speech some other time this year. I would be grateful if you and the other copy addressees could let me know if you are content with the attached letter to George Cox.



JONATHAN POWELL

From: Jonathan Powell
Date: 8 January 2001

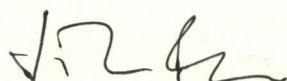
GEOFFREY NORRIS

✓ Yes

cc: Anji Hunter
Kate Garvey
Alastair Campbell
Jeremy Heywood
Simon Virley
David Miliband
Julian Braithwaite

IOD

George Cox raised the IOD bid for Tony to address their annual conference on 25 April today. I explained that it was simply not possible on that date. The IOD might however provide a good platform for a speech some other time this year. I would be grateful if you and the other copy addressees could let me know if you are content with the attached letter to George Cox.



JONATHAN POWELL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

8 January 2001

to (127 621)

I promised to look again at your letter of 16 November to the Prime Minister inviting him to address your annual conference at the Albert Hall on 25 April. For the reasons I explained it really would not be possible for him or the Chancellor to do it then. We do, however, very much value our relationship with the IOD and the Prime Minister would be happy to address its members this year, either before ~~April~~ ^{The date} or after ~~June~~. So perhaps you could come back to us with a specific proposal that we could consider.

JONATHAN POWELL

Mr George Cox

Title

From: Anji Hunter
Date: 8 January 2001

PRIME MINISTER

cc Alastair Campbell
Hilary Coffman
Simon Virley

YOUR VISIT TO BRISTOL, 9 JANUARY 2001

You are formally opening the new City of Bristol College site. A state-of-the-art centre that you can justifiably claim is delivering (20 per cent funding from FE Funding Council, PPP, and the general climate of 'Education, Education, Education'). There are over 5,000 full-time students (double that with part-timers), on courses ranging from 'A' Levels and from hairdressing to engineering and construction. They encourage women returners and are a major New Deal contractor.

On arrival, you will be met the Principal, Brian Styles, and have brief private chat. There will be pooled media in the sixth floor coffee area, where you have ten minutes to speak to a selected group of students. You then go into the Art, Media and Design area – again, superb facilities and quality training. You “open” the college on screen and say a few off-the-cuff words to the assembled students/governors/others involved in the establishment of the college.

Small group of media.

The next venue is the Council House, where you will recall doing a Q&A in May 1997. There will be 400 in the audience, organised by the Labour Party regional office, but on a non-partisan basis – local business (Chambers of Commerce), a community association, representatives from local public services, plus the Cotham School council. This former grammar school was one of the first to vote

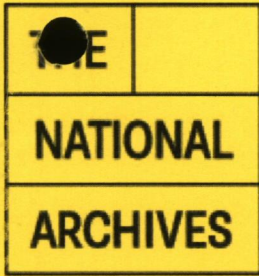
for comprehensive status and their results have continued to improve. They are providing the musical accompaniment

Prior to your speech you have brief photo opps with Raymond Wong of the Overseas Chinese Association (you met him at the January Chinese event and he is expecting a verbal message for their annual dinner, which you have declined. I am awaiting confirmation that you will be garlanded by the British Bangladeshi Association, which is followed by a short interview with the Bristol Evening Post (mainly on the local bus issue - HC has briefing). Also a bit of time for speech prep. The audience are expecting a proper speech and you have about 75 minutes all told to include the Q&A.

Programme attached.

NB Garden Rooms taken directly to Council House. Met by Carol Linsorgh and escorted to Lord Mayor's Parlour to set up office.

ANJI HUNTER



| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 49</i> | Date and sign |
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Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer
or Number not used.

lec 11/1



**British Embassy
Berlin**

Wilhelmstr. 70
10117 Berlin

Telephone: (030) 204 570
Fax: (030) 20457 574

5 January 2000

Michael Tatham Esq
No 10 Downing Street
London

Dear Michael,

LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Prof Eversheim and the Mayor of Aachen, inviting him to attend this year's Charlemagne Prize Award Ceremony on 24 May. A translation is attached.
2. We would not rate this event as a high priority. In any case, I doubt the Prime Minister will have time to come to Aachen for it. I suggest you reply along the lines of the attached draft.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jonathan Walters', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jonathan Walters
Private Secretary to the Ambassador

Translation

Letter to the Prime Minister dated December 2000

Dear Prime Minister,

We are pleased to inform you of the decision by the Board of Directors of the Karlspreis Society to award the International Karlspreis zu Aachen 2001 to

**the Hungarian author and sociologist,
György Konrád.**

For the reasoning behind this decision we refer you to the enclosed document.

Mr. Konrád will receive the award in the Krönungssaal of Aachen's town hall at 11 a.m. on Ascension Day, 24 May 2001.

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the ceremony as an honorary guest and to arrive in Aachen on the afternoon of the previous day, Wednesday 23 May 2001, so that you can take part in the traditional dinner for the new and previous prize-winners. We shall be sending you invitations under separate cover.

We look forward to meeting you again and remain

Yours faithfully,

Professor Walter Eversheim
Spokesman for the Board of Directors

Dr. Jürgen Linden
Mayor of Aachen



Gesellschaft für die
Verleihung des
Internationalen
Karlspreises zu
Aachen e.V.

Direktorium

D-52062 Aachen
Theaterstraße 67
Phone +49(0)241/4 01 77 70
Fax +49(0)241/4 01 77 71

Aachen, im Dezember 2000

Exzellenz! Sehr geehrter Herr Premierminister!

Wir freuen uns, Ihnen von dem Beschluß des Direktoriums der Karlspreisgesellschaft Kenntnis zu geben, den Internationalen Karlspreis zu Aachen 2001 an

**den ungarischen Schriftsteller und Soziologen,
Herrn György Konrád,**

zu verleihen.

Wir bitten Sie freundlich, die Begründung der Anlage zu entnehmen.

Herr Konrád wird die Auszeichnung am Christi Himmelfahrtstag, dem 24. Mai 2001, 11.00 Uhr im Krönungssaal des Aachener Rathauses entgegennehmen.

Das Direktorium lädt Sie herzlich ein, als Ehrengast an der Feier teilzunehmen und schon am Vortag, Mittwoch, den 23. Mai 2001, nachmittags in Aachen so einzutreffen, daß die Teilnahme am traditionellen Abendessen im Kreis des Preisträgers sowie früherer Preisträger möglich ist. Gesonderte Einladungen werden Ihnen noch übermittelt.

Wir freuen uns auf das Wiedersehen und verbleiben

mit freundlichen Grüßen

(Professor Dr. Walter Eversheim)
Sprecher des Direktoriums

(Dr. Jürgen Linden)
Oberbürgermeister



Gesellschaft für die
Verleihung des
Internationalen
Karlspreises zu
Aachen e.V.

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**BEGRÜNDUNG DES DIREKTORIUMS DER GESELLSCHAFT
FÜR DIE VERLEIHUNG DES INTERNATIONALEN KARLSPREISES ZU AACHEN
AN DEN UNGARISCHEN SCHRIFTSTELLER UND SOZIOLOGEN**

GYÖRGY KONRÁD

Wenn über die Rolle der Kultur beim Aufbau der Europäischen Union nachgedacht wird, wird oft Jean Monnet (Karlspreisträger 1953) zitiert, der im hohen Alter sagte: „Wenn ich noch einmal anfangen sollte, würde ich von der Kultur her anfangen“. Und in der Tat: Die wirtschaftliche und politische Integration Europas ist mit der Vollendung des Binnenmarktes weit fortgeschritten. Darüber hinaus steht die Erweiterung um die neuen Demokratien Mittel- und Osteuropas sowie die Vertiefung der Union und ihres strukturellen Zusammenhalts auf der Tagesordnung.

Die menschliche Integration Europas ist jedoch im Bewusstsein wie in der Praxis unterentwickelt. Hier kommt der Kultur als pragmatischste Ebene der Begegnung und des Austauschs eine besondere Bedeutung für das „Gemeinsame Haus Europa“ zu. Europa ist ein kulturpolitisches Ganzes, vereint durch das gemeinsame Erbe des Christentums, aber auch der besonderen europäischen Impulse der monotheistischen Religionen des Judentums und des Islams, der Renaissance und der Aufklärung sowie den großen philosophischen und sozialen Lehren des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts. In diesem kulturellen Erbe liegt ein enormes Potential für eine Politik des Friedens, der Verständigung und der gutnachbarlichen Beziehungen. Kultur ist auch ein Mittel zur Einübung der Demokratie, deren Wurzel wir in Europa haben. Sie schafft menschliche Verbindungen, weckt Toleranz für andere Kulturen und für andere Menschen.

Die Vision eines gemeinsamen Europas war und ist die Hoffnung und Zielperspektive, die aus gemeinsam geteilten Werten und einem europäischen Verantwortungsbewusstsein resultiert, die über die alltägliche Politik weit hinausreicht. So heißt es bereits in der Proklamation des Internationalen Karlspreises von 1949: „Da die Fortschritte der Menschheit immer von einzelnen genialen Persönlichkeiten ausgegangen sind, die sich trotz aller Widerstände ganz ihrer Idee verschrieben haben“, gelte es, auf diese Persönlichkeiten „als Vorbilder hinzuweisen, zur Nachahmung und zu Verwirklichung ihrer Ideen aufzufordern“. Unsere europäische Identität hat ihre Wurzeln dabei gerade in der Vielgestaltigkeit der nationalen und regionalen Kulturen. Damit diese Vielfalt uns aber bereichert und nicht etwa Auseinandersetzungen begründet, brauchen wir bessere wechselseitige Kenntnisse der Geschichte, Traditionen, Sprache und Gewohnheiten unserer Nachbarn. Wenn wir die anderen wahrnehmen und verstehen, lernen wir auch etwas über unsere eigene Identität. Europa wird in dem Maße zusammenwachsen, in dem das Bewusstsein dieser kulturellen Einheit, einer Einheit in Vielfalt, wächst.

Eine in diesem Sinne herausragende Persönlichkeit der europäischen Kultur, die Freiheit und Verantwortung stets ins Zentrum ihrer Betrachtung rückt, die auch über ihr literarisches, journalistisches und wissenschaftliches Tätigkeitsfeld hinaus Position bezieht und sich in der Tradition der europäischen Aufklärung im besten Sinne des Wortes „einmischt“, ist der ungarische Schriftsteller, Soziologe und Psychologe György Konrád. Dieser „homme des lettres“ ist nicht nur ein ausgezeichneter Repräsentant der ungarischen Kultur. Die Motive und Inhalte seines literarischen Schaffens sind vielmehr eingebunden in das Bewusstsein der supranationalen europäischen Kultur und Geschichte.

Der 1933 als Sohn eines jüdischen Eisenwarenhändlers in Debrecen nahe der rumänischen Grenze geborene Konrád, der einen großen Teil seiner jüdischen Familie während der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung verlor, überlebte durch die Flucht zu Verwandten nach Budapest.

György Konrád ist ein politischer Schriftsteller sui generis: Schreiben ist für ihn eine Form der gesellschaftlichen Intervention. Telos seiner politischen Essays wie seiner Romane sind Freiheit und Menschenwürde. Darum begrüßte Konrád emphatisch den demokratischen Aufbruch in Mittel- und Osteuropa. Er veröffentlichte 1969 seinen ersten Roman „Der Besucher“, mit dem er schlagartig international bekannt wurde. Sein sozialkritischer Impetus führte zur ständigen Beobachtung durch die Kommunistische Partei Ungarns. Aufgrund seiner kritischen Essays wurde er 1974 am Jahrestag der ungarischen Revolution von 1956 verhaftet, die angebotene Ausreise lehnte Konrád ab und wurde „Pseudopsychologe“ in einer Nervenheilanstalt.

Mit der soziologischen Studie „Die Intelligenz auf dem Weg zur Klassenmacht“ (1978) beginnt die große Essayistik. Die Rolle des Oppositionellen; Rekonstruktion und Beschwörung der Zivilgesellschaft; die Vision von Mitteleuropa gegen die geteilte Welt von Jalta. Ein Leben zwischen wachsendem Ruhm im Westen und Publikationsverbot in Ungarn; zwischen Auszeichnungen und Stipendien, Samisdat-Produktion und dem Schmuggeln der Manuskripte.

Insbesondere plädierte György Konrád in dieser Zeit für eine stufenweise und vertraglich geregelte Befreiung Osteuropas im Rahmen eines freien und unabhängigen Europas. Damit erntete er eisige Ablehnung bei Kollegen aus dem Ostblock und scharfe Kritik aus Budapest. Eine weitere Verschärfung trat ein, als sich Konrád offen für die polnische Gewerkschaftsbewegung „Solidarnosc“ einsetzte und 1984 mit dem hochdotierten Herder-Preis ausgezeichnet wurde. Als Schriftsteller machte er 1985 mit dem politisch-moralischen Essayband „Antipolitik. Mitteleuropäische Meditationen“ erneut auf sich aufmerksam: „Antipolitik, das ist die moralische Beurteilung der Politik. Die Moral selbst kann nicht die Politik ersetzen, im Sokratischen Sinne aber kann sie der Dämon der Politik sein, ihr Alpdrücken, ihr schlechtes Gewissen, die Traumarbeit der Politik kann sie sein“. Dieses Buch trug nicht unwesentlich zur demokratischen Erneuerung in Ungarn Ende der 80er Jahre bei. Mit der demokratischen Wende in Mittel- und Osteuropa sah sich Konrád in seiner Ansicht bestätigt, der „gefährliche und primitive Zustand des bipolaren Weltmodells“ sei nur von der Mitte aus zu überwinden. Als vorrangig stufte Konrád anschließend jene Probleme ein, die sich aus dem wachsenden Nationalismus und aus dem in Europa herrschenden ökonomischen Ungleichgewicht ergaben.

Seiner Meinung nach besteht die große Aufgabe Europas heute darin, sich seiner kulturellen Gemeinsamkeiten und Wurzeln wieder bewusst zu werden. Dieses Europa, es hat ein tragfähiges Fundament, auf dem wir aufbauen können. Und diese Gemeinsamkeit schließt Beson-

derheit, also etwa nationale Eigenheiten, nicht aus, im Gegenteil. Das gemeinsame Europa muss eines sein, das Vielfalt nicht nur duldet, sondern ausdrücklich wünscht. Osteuropäer und Westeuropäer können voneinander im Interesse Europas nur lernen: Endlich ist es möglich, sich wechselseitig mit Geschichte, mit kulturellen Traditionen, mit Literatur, Musik, Film auseinanderzusetzen: ohne Zensur und ohne Bevormundung.

Im Mai 1990 wurde György Konrád in das Amt des Präsidenten des Internationalen PEN-Clubs gewählt, das er bis 1993 innehatte. Im Oktober 1991 erhielt er in Frankfurt den Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels. Der Stiftungsrat würdigte damit Konráds Denken und Schreiben, das sich von Beginn an „auf die Überwindung der aus dem Zweiten Weltkrieg resultierenden Teilung Europas“ gerichtet habe.

Für viele ist er eine moralische Instanz geworden, ein außergewöhnlicher Mensch, dessen warmherziges, mitfühlendes Wesen und dessen Menschlichkeit sich spontan mitteilen. Die Literatur ist für ihn ein Medium, um Völker und Zivilisationen einander näherzubringen. György Konrád hat als europäischer Humanist, als Weltbürger und Brückenbauer für Gerechtigkeit und Versöhnung und damit für das Zusammenwachsen Europas gewirkt.

Seine Auffassung von der menschlichen Gesellschaft und das Streben nach politischen und moralischen Werten münden in einer allumfassenden Toleranz gegenüber allen Lebensweisen und -auffassungen. Liebe, Mitgefühl und Solidarität sind Werte, die er nachdrücklich verkörpert. Insofern vertritt er im besten Sinne des Wortes die Werte, die Europa mit dem Zeitalter der Aufklärung verbindet.

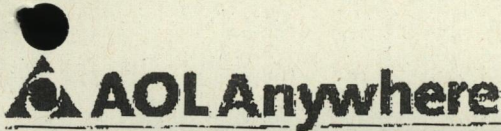
Frieden ist eine zentrale Bedingung, die Erde bewohnbar zu erhalten. Für György Konrád ist Friede kein Wert an sich, sondern ein ständiges Wirken, ein unermüdliches, unverzagtes Bemühen. Frieden ist mehr als die Abwesenheit von Krieg. Frieden herrscht dann, wenn geistige Auseinandersetzung ohne physische und psychische Gewalt möglich ist, wenn Streit mit Argumenten, nicht mit Zensur und Schlagstöcken ausgetragen wird. „Der Frieden ist mächtiger als der Krieg, denn das meiste innerhalb des täglichen Lebens steht auf der Seite des Friedens“, so György Konrád. Er kämpfte gegen Ressentiments und warb um Toleranz. Er hat mit dazu beigetragen, dass sich die Beziehungen der Völker freundschaftlich weiter gestalten und der Geist des Misstrauens, der Furcht und der Befangenheit zurückgedrängt wurde.

Europa ist auch ein intellektueller Prozess, in dem nicht die Zufriedenheit mit der jeweiligen Gegenwart, sondern vielmehr die Hoffnung und Ahnung einer besseren Zukunft im Mittelpunkt stehen. Viele Träume haben einen Namen, der Europa heißt. György Konrád formuliert ihn so: „Europäer sind wir durch innere, komplexe Gehirntätigkeit, durch die flexible Handhabung unserer inneren Paradoxa, durch unser Vergnügen an der Formenvielfalt, durch die Verwandlung des Abwechslungsreichtums unserer Rollen in schöpferischer Spannung, Europäer sind wir dadurch, dass wir für andersartige Kulturen Verständnis haben beziehungsweise intellektuelle Sympathie und dass wir darauf vertrauen, uns dadurch nicht zu verlieren.“

Seit Mai 1997 ist György Konrád Präsident der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Künste. Zu seinen wichtigsten Publikationen zählen: „Der Besucher“ (1973), „Der Stadtgründer“ (1975), „Die Intelligenz auf dem Weg zur Klassenmacht“ (1978), „Der Komplize“ (1980), „Antipolitik. Mitteleuropäische Meditationen“ (1985), „Geisterfest“ (1986), „Stimmungsbericht“ (1988), „Melinda und Dragoman“ (1991), „Melancholie der Wiedergeburt“ (1993), „Heimkehr“ (1995), „Identität und Hysterie“ (1994), „Steinuhr“ (1995), „Vor den Toren des Reichs“ (1997). György Konrád lebt mit seiner Ehefrau Judit Lakner in Berlin und Budapest; gemeinsam haben sie drei Söhne und eine Tochter.

Das Direktorium der Gesellschaft für die Verleihung des Internationalen Karlspreises zu Aachen ehrt mit György Konrád einen europäischen Schriftsteller und Essayisten von Weltrang, der Zeit seines Lebens im Sinne eines engagierten Aufklärers für das Zusammenwachsen Europas und für die Errichtung von offenen Gesellschaften schriftstellerisch, kulturpolitisch und essayistisch gestritten hat, ohne dabei persönliche Entbehungen und Freiheitsentzug zu fürchten.

Mit der Verleihung des Internationalen Karlspreises zu Aachen 2001 an György Konrád soll zugleich die enorme Bedeutung und Leistung der Schriftstellerinnen und Schriftsteller für das „Gemeinsame Haus Europa“ betont werden und dies vor allem auf dem Hintergrund der medialen Verflochtenheit der Welt, in der vielfach Beschleunigung und nicht gedankliche Tiefe zunehmen. Sein Leben und sein Werk bilden eine großartige, harmonische Einheit, deren Wirkung über die Grenzen zwischen Staaten und Völkern, zwischen Ideologien und Konfessionen reicht. Sein schriftstellerisches Werk hat dazu beigetragen, im Geiste der Völkerverständigung und Friedenswahrung Verständnis für die besonderen Voraussetzungen des jeweils anderen Partners zu wecken. Wie kaum ein anderer Intellektueller ist György Konrád geeignet, den Menschen in Europa - Ost wie West - die aus den gemeinsamen Werten resultierenden Aufgaben zu verdeutlichen, die in der noch kürzlich beschlossenen Grundrechte-Charta einen vornehmen Ausdruck gefunden haben.



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Subj: London/Sydney Centenary Air Race
Date: Thu, 4 Jan 2001 8:11:07 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: "Nanette Whyte" <nanette.whyte@airrace.com.au>
To: "Jennifer Murray" <jeffasolo@aol.com>

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Dear Jennifer,

I was delighted to receive your email. How exciting! I spoke to our CEO Wilf Barker about it, who is currently in Melbourne on business and back on Monday next (8/1/01).

He has asked me to let you know that we are quite excited at the thought of Prince Andrew (and Fergie) attending our Race-Start Dinner at Australia House

The current status is as follows.

1. HRH Duke of Edinburgh is Grand Master of the Guild of Air Pilots, who the Air Race team saw in London. The Guild of Air Pilots indicated that they would arrange/invite HRH to be the special guest at our dinner. They made some enquiries and then requested that we write directly to HRH at The Palace. We did this some weeks ago and have not yet received a reply. However, we understood our dinner had been pencilled into his schedule.

2.

3. For some months there have been negotiations with the British High Commissioner to have Prime Minister Tony Blair lower the flag for the official 8am take-off from Biggin Hill on Sunday 9th March, 2001. Our Prime Minister was going to informally discuss with this with Mr. Blair. Currently we are pushing to get a final answer.

Wilf has suggested that if you are aware of all of the above, then you may be able to assist us in all directions as we are very enthusiastic to get the proper level of support. If you require letters from us, could you please indicate the title and address details/contents and we will immediately follow up from this end.

Thank you for your special interest.

Kind Regards,

Nanette Whyte
Entrant Services Manager

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Fax: (02) 9966 1807

Email: nanette.whyte@airrace.com.au
Web: www.airrace.com.au

Temporarily retained

Anji Hunter (by fax)
I just wanted to ask whether X means anything to you. It's the start of the London-Sydney Centenary Air Race. Has it been involved in discussions? Is there likelihood he will have starters plan?

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3 January 2001

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(Wilton Mahrie)

British High Commission
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From the High Commissioner
Sir Andrew Burns KCMG

2

Dear John,

SUMMITS IN JUNE 2002

1. Following my conversation with Claude Laverdure on 22 December, and having seen Edward Oakden's letter of 2 January to James Bevan, I had a word with the Canadian Sherpa, Gaetan Lavertu when business resumed after the New Year holiday, just to repeat the message that we wanted if possible to protect the Prime Minister's position in the UK on 15 June.
2. This clearly gave Lavertu very considerable pause for thought. The Canadians have already committed themselves bookings on 15 and 16 June and are conscious of the heavy financial costs involved in changing those dates. In any case they feel very constrained by the imminence of the World Youth Assembly which is a huge event meeting in July. I said that he would no doubt be hearing more on this subject from London, either directly or through me in due course but that I wanted to make sure he had heard of our concerns from the Prime Minister's Office and registered that we saw a serious difficulty with plans to use that weekend for the G8 Summit. Lavertu repeated that his Prime Minister was firmly committed to those dates even though not everyone else had yet specifically signed up to them.
3. Let me know if you want me to carry the discussion further.

*Yours sincerely,
Andrew Burns*

Andrew Burns

/ CC:...

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CC:

Sherard Cowper-Coles Esq, PPS, FCO
Peter Torry Esq, Madrid
Nigel Sheinwald Esq, UKRep Brussels
Nicholas Armour Esq, Hd/NAD, FCO

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BRITISH EMBASSY
MADRID

2 January 2001

James Bevan Esq
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☎: (91) 319 02 00 (12 lines)

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Dear James,

c: JS
JB
AC
KG
MC
AM

SUMMITS IN JUNE 2002

1. Further to John Sawers' letter of 21 December to Sherard Cowper-Coles (and mine to you of 15 December), I spoke to Jorge Toledo (Presidency Unit, Moncloa) to flag up the Prime Minister's likely difficulty in being out of the UK on Saturday, 15 June, and to ask how the Spanish proposed to resolve the prospective clash between their Summit in Seville and the G8 Summit, both on 15 June.

2. Toledo said that, following Nice, the Spanish had had to re-think:

- What was clear was that the G8 Summit would be on Saturday, 15 June: that had been decided (and Aznar would of course attend as EU Presidency). So the Prime Minister's difficulty with 15 June would be for us to pursue with the Canadians, not the Spanish.
- What remained unclear was the date, and indeed the location, of the Spanish European Council. On location, the Spanish were continuing to plan on Seville, rather than Brussels, unless and until it was decided otherwise (I recalled Nigel Sheinwald's supportive remarks in Coreper: para 10 of UKREP telno 1473). On date, the Council would clearly be in June. But whether before or after the G8 Summit, and the precise date, would depend on the decision on location, the timing of the French legislative election, following the likely reversal of the legislative and Presidential contests, and participants' availabilities.

Comment

3. If we have a preference on dates for the Spanish Council, it would clearly be best to feed these in soon, before Spanish planning further solidifies.

4. I am copying this to Michael Tatham (No.10), Giles Paxman (UKREP) and Martin Uden (Ottawa).

Yours ever,

(Edwad)

Edwad Oakden
Deputy Head of Mission