



10 DOWNING STREET

SS
Press
DTI.

20 September 1985

From the Private Secretary

Dear Mr. Tsuchiya

This is to confirm following my conversation with your Secretary this afternoon, that the Prime Minister is looking forward to opening your manufacturing plant in Washington on Monday 8 September 1986. The timetable we agreed was that the Prime Minister would arrive at 1000 hours and the programme would last two hours.

As I know Caroline Ryder explained on the telephone to your Secretary, it is important that, for reasons I know you will understand, we keep advance knowledge of the Prime Minister's intention to visit Nissan to as small a number of people as possible. We would plan to make press announcements only a day or so in advance of the visit. Our detectives will of course be in touch with you nearer the time to discuss the appropriate arrangements for security and our press office, too, will be contacting you to sort out the publicity arrangements for the opening.

It would be very helpful if you were able to let us have a draft programme for the Prime Minister's visit, say by July next year.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Z Sincerely
Mark Addison

(Mark Addison)

Mr. T. Tsuchiya

ECU

PRIME MINISTER

You will remember that Lord Marsh earlier this year asked if you would be willing to mark the beginning of production at Nissan in the North East next year in the Autumn. You wrote back saying that you would be delighted to take this on.

Subsequently, it came to light that there might be Union difficulties which could put Nissan off pursuing the invitation. It has turned out that these unhelpful noises were coming mainly from the local authority, and neither Lord Marsh nor Nissan wish to take them seriously. The upshot is that Mr Tsuchiya, the Managing Director of Nissan UK, has now formally written to you inviting you to open their plant in September next year.

I enclose a draft letter of acceptance for your signature.

Mark Addison

MARK ADDISON

13 August 1985

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc: Mr. Wicks
Mr. Sherbourne
Mrs. Ryder
Mrs. Richards
Supt. Ray Parker

NISSAN OPENING

Following our discussion at the diary meeting last week, I have now agreed with Mr. Goto (01-493-3088) an amendment to the times for the Prime Minister's proposed visit. He is now working on the assumption that the Prime Minister will arrive at the Washington site shortly before midday on 8 September. She would tour the plant for about an hour. A lunch would then be laid on. She would leave at 1400 hours.

On the basis that it should take no more than two hours to complete the journey from Balmoral to Washington (by car to Aberdeen, then by plane), this should mean the Prime Minister would not have to depart from Balmoral before 1000 hours.

We shall need to confirm the times in writing to Mr. Goto, and ask him to prepare in due course a draft programme.

MEA

Mark Addison

27 November 1985

DG2AQS

PA



NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.

LONDON OFFICE
Incorporated with limited liability in Japan

23rd September 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON S W 1

Dear Prime Minister

Although you were away in the Middle East, I was most interested to watch BBC TV's 2-part series on 10 Downing Street which was aired over the weekend.

I was interested firstly because it was exactly 250 years ago that Sir Robert Walpole moved into 10 Downing Street as your first Prime Minister, and it just so happens that Nissan's new office in London was his residence. Sir Robert Walpole's portrait still hangs in the hallway.

I was interested secondly, and not the least importantly, because the second part of the programme gave me an insight into your life as Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. In addition to yourself, it showed some of the Ministers that I have had the pleasure of knowing as well as Robin Butler, Bernard Ingham and Stephen Sherbourne. Above all, the programme made me aware all the more of the tremendous responsibility and workload being placed on your shoulders.

I am pleased to learn that you have kindly accepted the invitation from Mr Tsuchiya, Managing Director of Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Limited, to their grand opening scheduled for September next year. The buildings in Sunderland have just been completed and turned over to us by Sir Robert Mc Alpine and Sons.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

F.R.

Bemaxo

NOTE FOR FILE

I spoke to Mr Tsuchiya's Personal Assistant (a Japanese lady) and offered her Monday 8 September 1986 for the Prime Minister's visit to Nissan. I told her that Mrs Thatcher would be happy with a two hour programme starting at 10am. I mentioned the security angle but when Nissan have confirmed the date we should write a letter confirming the above details.

CAROLINE RYDER

20 September 1985



file

SH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 August 1985

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister of 8 August. As you may know, she is not at present in the Office, but I shall ensure your letter is placed before her on her return.

MARK ADDISON

Mr. T. Tsuchiya



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TT/PDW/FS

8th August, 1985.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., F.R.S., M.P.
10 Downing Street,
Westminster,
LONDON.
W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you formally to conduct the official opening of our manufacturing plant in Washington, Tyne and Wear on a mutually convenient date in September 1986.

If you are able to accept, we would be delighted to welcome you and look forward to a splendid occasion.

Yours sincerely,

T. Tsuchiya

T. Tsuchiya
Managing Director

CP
File plus.

Japan A/S

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

NISSAN

Lord Marsh rang the Office today to inform us that the Nissan main Board had decided they did wish to invite the Prime Minister to inaugurate production in the North East next year. They would prefer a date in late September.

Lord Marsh reported that he did not expect there would be a significant amount of local opposition to the visit. It seemed that the trade union position which had been reported to us earlier had been largely inspired by the local authorities.

Mr. Toshia, Nissan's Managing Director, will be writing to the Prime Minister shortly to invite her formally.

WEA

8 August 1985

DG2ALV



BF 8/7/85

10 DOWNING STREET

Cameron

Pl. b for Monday.

I will speak to Feb, and we
can go back to Dil afterwards.

I take it Dil are not
pressing?

MENT 3/7

Cameron.

I have spoken to John
Moss & told him we are
still awaiting a reply from
herd Merd
MENT 12/7

MR INGHAM

MR SHERBOURNE

lite
62

NISSAN

I understand that you are each lunching separately with Mr Goto, under the auspices of Geoffrey Tucker, in the next two weeks. I did so today.

The main item they raised with me was the possibility of the Prime Minister's opening the Nissan plant. The projected date is the Autumn of 1986. There was a hiccup because it was said that local opinion would be opposed to her opening the plant. It turns out that this came mainly from the Chairman of Tyne and Wear and results largely from their opposition to the Abolition Bill. Nissan seem to be returning to the idea of the Prime Minister opening the plant and confirm that it would be possible for her to helicoptor directly into the site in order to by-pass demonstrations.

We discussed dates briefly. I said that the most convenient time might be around 8 September 1986, when the Prime Minister is returning from Balmoral and before any overseas trip which she makes in that month. An alternative is October, but, as Geoffrey Tucker pointed out, there could be the motions about protectionism at the Labour Party Conference which would make this project more controversial.

Mr. Goto also told me that, on present form, Nissan are likely to take a favourable decision about Phase II of the development earlier than expected, ie. well before the end of 1987.

E. E. R. BUTLER

8 July 1985

No, but I am having lunch
with the Chief Executive
of Nissan on Mon. 8

~~Return~~ July and will inquire then. FERB
Any further news from Lord Marsh?
Mark 3/7.

DTI have phoned Garden Rooms
to ask if they could have, for their
records, a copy of the AM's final
reply to Lord Marsh about her
possible opening of the new Nissan
plant.

The last letter they had was the
AM's reply to Lord Marsh saying
"delighted, and we will sort out
a date" - that was in May.

Since then, there has only been
FERB's minute of 10 June (at flap),
on which you have written "we
are not letting DTI for now".

Do you want to speak to DTI?

CST
2/7

1. Mr. Thornhill } to see
2. Mr. Addison } to see
3. Mr. Byler - we are not filling
4. File up. DTI for now.

Note:

I spoke to Lord Marsh accordingly. He thanked the PM for her generosity and said that he wanted to discuss further with Nissan. They might yet want to invite the PM, none the less. Action with him.

PRIME MINISTER

OPENING OF THE NISSAN PLANT

Lord Marsh telephoned this afternoon. He said that the unions had told the Nissan management that they would object to your being invited to commission the plant. Nissan did not want to antagonise the trade unions in this way and were not inclined to press the point (though this does not sound exactly like the dawn of a new era of industrial relations!).

FERB

11.6.

Lord Marsh said that Nissan would like to come in and explain the situation to you. My reaction is:

- (i) whatever you may think of Nissan's attitude, I am sure that you would not want to press them to invite you to open the plant if they feel that it would get the undertaking off on the wrong foot;
- (ii) if we are quietly going to drop the idea, it would be better to do it quietly and not increase the risk of a story leaking that Nissan had been to explain to you why they could not invite you to carry out the opening.

Agree that we should tell Lord Marsh that, if Nissan do not want to invite you to open the plant you are content that it should be quietly dropped?

Yes mb

FERB.

10 June 1985