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CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Commonwealth Heads of Government  
Meeting (CHOGM) 1993 and the UK's  
Bid to Host it.

COMMONWEALTH

April 1989

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>4.4.89</del> 24.7.91							
<p><b>Series closed</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">94</p> <p style="font-size: 3em;">PREM 19/3245</p>							

FILE KK



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1991

Dear Simon,

CHOGM 1993: UK TO HOST?

Thank you for your letter of 22 July about the possibility that we might offer to host CHOGM in 1993.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discussed this this afternoon. They were both of the view that the benefits to be derived from hosting CHOGM were outweighed by the trouble and expense.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discussed one or two possible sites outside London but concluded that, even outside London, the idea was unattractive.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Heywood (HM Treasury) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Jaws.  
Stephen

(J. S. WALL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A



CC 72

*by Johnson (pre Fed  
Wtchakal)*

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1 2AH

22 July 1991

*Dear Stephen,*

*⊗*

CHOGM 1993 : UK to Host?

*attachia*

In the Foreign Secretary's absence, Mrs Chalker sent the Prime Minister a minute on 21 May as part of the scene setting for the postponed meeting of the Ten Heads of Government on 11/12 June. The minute asked whether Britain should offer to host a full Heads of Government meeting, and set out the arguments.

Officials have now taken a preliminary look at the feasibility and cost of offering to host the 1993 meeting. They believe that it would be feasible to have the meeting either in London (using Lancaster House and the QEII Conference Centre) or in Birmingham at the International Conference Centre. In either case the costs would be likely to be of the order of £8 million. The lead time is already fairly tight for a 1993 date, and both possible Centres have indicated that there could already be difficulty in arranging suitable bookings in October 1993 (Conservative Central Office have a first option in Birmingham for the first fortnight of October 1993).

A further complication is the question of contingent liabilities if we go ahead at once. Given the commercial planning horizons of the Conference Centre Managers, they would be entitled to ask now for a deposit if we wished to retain any priority for dates in October 1993. While we would hope to be able to avoid any payment of a deposit until after Harare, the Prime Minister might wish to be aware that, even at this range, we could be forced to accept a future liability against cancellation. Cancellation costs of a booking in Birmingham would be around £100,000 and at the QEII Centre around £200,000, should the operators fail to relet their facilities subsequently.

/It would



It would nevertheless be helpful to know whether the Prime Minister wishes us to pursue these options further. If he does, we can, in consultation with the Cabinet Office, move to a rather more detailed stage of planning and consider the public expenditure implications more formally, as well as establishing firmer bookings in London or Birmingham. We will not of course know until after the Harare CHOGM whether our offer, if it is made, is successful.

A meeting in the UK would only be possible on the basis of additional funding from the Treasury for the full cost. Neither we nor the Cabinet Office have any funds available. We and the Cabinet Office will discuss this further with the Treasury, should the Prime Minister wish to pursue the possibility of a meeting in the UK.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Heywood (Treasury) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO  
10 Downing Street



22 OCT 1954  
12:12 PM '54

c/c

ORIGINAL FILED ON:

FROM: LYNDA CHALKER

COMMONWEALTH: High Level Review, June 90.

DATE: 21 MAY 1991

Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Prime Minister ①  
D. G. W.

## THE COMMONWEALTH

1. The Heads of Government meeting in London on 11 and 12 June is an important opportunity to steer the Commonwealth on to a more constructive path. The changes in South Africa, the ending of super-power rivalry in Africa and the collapse of the model of the centralised one-party African state, together with our common interests of the environment, good government and drugs, suggest for the Commonwealth a new and constructive role. South Africa will be an issue in Harare, and for some years to come. But the Review provides an opportunity to look to our longer term interests.

2. The June meeting will consider a draft declaration for the Harare CHOGM. We shall aim to strengthen the priority the Commonwealth gives to good government in all its aspects, including pluralism, accountability, and market principles. We shall also want to focus attention on global environmental protection and sustainable development in the run up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and on drugs. Other Heads of Government will have their own priorities, including the renewal of the North-South dialogue. But the draft, prepared in a group of Cabinet Secretaries in which Lord Armstrong represented Britain, is a good start. I attach a copy.

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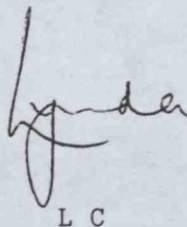
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3. The case for greater British involvement in Commonwealth activities has not been strong in recent years. But in the medium term it is worth consideration. The arguments are set out in the attached paper from the FCO's Planning Staff.

4. Officials are working on a possible British initiative for Harare which might be launched at the London meeting. This would aim to reinforce the principles of good government by proposing a Commonwealth Charter, drawing on the principles in the CSCE Helsinki Final Act and perhaps involving a broad-based conference, for adoption at the next CHOGM in 1993. I expect to put a proposal to you shortly.

5. The paper raises the question of whether the time has come for Britain once again to offer to host a full Heads of Government meeting. We have not done so since Mr Callaghan hosted the 1977 meeting, and a Conservative Prime Minister has not presided at one since 1964. 1993 will be the 40th Anniversary of Her Majesty's first CHOGM, in the margins of the Coronation, and might, if we judged the risks of a row over South Africa to have passed, be a good occasion. I have asked my officials to look at the practical aspects and costs.

6. I have discussed the above with Douglas Hurd. He has also seen the Planning Staff paper and agrees the line we are proposing.

  
L C

Overseas Development Administration  
21 May 1991

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FILE

KK



cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

4 April 1989

CHOGM: 1993

Thank you for your letter of 3 April recommending that we should offer to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1993. The Prime Minister agrees that we should do this but has added the rider that we should not have a "Gleneagles" weekend retreat. (only)

(C. D. POWELL)

J. S. Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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c/c



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 April 1989

Yes - but  
No 'Glorious'  
weekend instead!

Ric Quinn  
Agree that we  
should make a bid  
for CHOGM in the UK  
in 1993?

Dear Charles,

CHOGM: 1993

As part of our preparation for the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting this October, we have been looking at the possibility of making an offer to host CHOGM 1993. You may think this is slightly premature - it would be normal for the Commonwealth to take a decision on its 1993 venue in 1991 (when CHOGM is likely to be in Malta) - but there are good reasons why we need to look at this now.

CDP  
3/4

1993 will be the 40th anniversary of Her Majesty's first Heads of Government meeting, which took place in the margins of Her Coronation.

Secondly, Commonwealth Heads of Government have not held a full meeting in London since 1977. Since the meetings started their present cycle in 1971 in Singapore, Canada has already hosted two (Ottawa in 1973 and Vancouver in 1987). Most other major Commonwealth countries have taken their turn.

But the major reason for looking at this now is that if an offer is to be made, we are getting to the stage when the initial preparations, including reservation of conference facilities (the Queen Elizabeth II Centre works on a five-year planning horizon) need to be set in hand. It would also be necessary to start preparing budgetary estimates for the additional expenditure which would be involved from FY 1992/93, which is now entering the PES horizon.

In the 1980s, full Heads of Government meetings have been held in September, October and November, which has generally proved convenient from the point of British Parliamentary elections. Our initial planning assumption would, therefore, be for a meeting to take place in London in September/October 1993. But at this stage we could look at other dates, and the possibility of holding the meeting away from London (there is a precedent both in Melbourne in 1979, and Vancouver in 1987, for holding the meeting away from the capital).

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S. Gray  
4/2/2017

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Jam.  
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(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

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