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background NOTES

United Kingdom

department of state * may 1975



OFFICIAL NAME: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

GEOGRAPHY

The United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales) and

Northern Ireland lies off the northwest coast of the European Continent, separated from it by the English Channel, the Strait of Dover, and the North Sea.

At the closest point England is only 22 miles from France. London is in the southeastern part of England.

PROFILE

Geography

AREA: 93,026 sq. mi. (slightly smaller than Oregon). CAPITAL: London (pop. 7.27 million). OTHER CITIES: Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Birmingham.

People

POPULATION: 55.9 million (1973 est.). ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: Negligible 1974-79 projection. DENSITY: 600 per sq. mi. ETHNIC GROUPS: Briton, West Indian, Indian, Pakistani. RELIGIONS: Church of England, Catholic, Presbyterian. LANGUAGES: English, Welsh, Gaelic. LITERACY: 90%. LIFE EXPECTANCY: males 68.7; females 75.

Government

TYPE: Constitutional monarchy. CONSTITUTION: Unwritten (partly statutes, partly common law and practice).

BRANCHES: *Executive* - the Queen (Chief of State), Prime Minister (Head of Government), Cabinet. *Legislative* - House of Commons, House of Lords. *Judicial* - Magistrates' Courts, County Courts, High Courts, Appellate Courts, House of Lords.

POLITICAL PARTIES: Labor, Conservative, Liberal. SUFFRAGE: Universal over 18. POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS: Municipalities, Counties, Parliamentary constituencies.

FLAGS: The red, white, and blue British Union Jack combines crosses of the patron saints of England (Saint George), Scotland (Saint Andrew), and Ireland (Saint Patrick). The red ensign, with Union Jack in the

upper left corner, flies above merchant ships commanded by civilians; the blue above those under Royal Navy command; the white above warships.

Economy

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP): \$151.9 billion (1973). ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: 1% (3rd quarter 1974/3rd quarter 1973). PER CAPITA INCOME: \$2,714 (1973). PER CAPITA GROWTH RATE: 5.1% (73/72).

AGRICULTURE: *Land* 78.3%. *Labor* 1.9%. *Products* - cereals, livestock, live-stock products.

INDUSTRY: *Labor* 34.6%. *Products* - steel, heavy engineering and metal manufacturing, textiles, motor vehicles and aircraft, electronics, chemicals.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Coal, oil, gas (North Sea).

TRADE: *Exports* - \$28.9 billion (1973): machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, beverages. *Imports* - \$38 billion (1973): foodstuffs, petroleum, machinery, crude materials. *Partners* - European Communities (EC) 33%, U.S. and Canada about 14%.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE: Approx. 1 pound=US\$2.40 (floating).

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Charter member of U.N. and its principal agencies and permanent member of Security Council, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

England has generally rolling land. Its largest city is London with a population of about 7.27 million. Scotland lies north of England. Its Lowlands, about 60 miles wide, divide the farming region of the southern Uplands from the granite Highlands of the north. Edinburgh (449,000) is Scotland's capital; Glasgow is its largest city (836,000) and one of the greatest industrial centers of the United Kingdom. Wales borders England to the west and is almost entirely mountainous; its largest city is Cardiff (277,000 inhabitants). Northern Ireland occupies the northeast corner of Ireland across the North Channel from Scotland and is primarily an agricultural region. Its capital and largest city, Belfast, has an estimated population of 354,000.

Owing to prevailing southwesterly winds, the climate of the United Kingdom is temperate and equable. Temperatures range from a mean of about 40°F in winter to about 60°F in summer. Average annual rainfall in the United Kingdom is 35-40 inches, distributed relatively evenly throughout the year, and fogs are frequent.

PEOPLE

The U.K. population was estimated at 55.9 million in 1973, about 3.4 million more than in 1961 and a sevenfold increase since 1700. Its population is the third highest in Europe (after the U.S.S.R. and the Federal Republic of Germany), and its population density is one of the highest in



the world. Almost one-third of the total population resides in England's prosperous and fertile southeastern corner, with population declining in the more rugged areas to the north and west. The population of the United Kingdom as a whole is predominantly urban and suburban.

The contemporary Briton is descended mainly from the varied racial stocks which settled there before the end of the 11th century. As an island lying close to the European Continent, Great Britain has been subject to many invasions and migrations, especially from Scandinavia and the Continent, including Roman occupation for several centuries. Under the Normans, Scandinavian Vikings who had settled in northern France, the pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norse influences were blended into the Briton of today. While the Celtic languages still persist in Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland to a small degree, the predominant language has long been English, a blend of Anglo-Saxon and Norman-French.

The high literacy rate in the United Kingdom (90 percent) is attributable to the introduction of public primary and secondary education in 1870 and 1900 respectively. In 1973 there were over 11 million students in attendance at educational institutions, the great majority of which are publicly financed in whole or in part.

The Church of England (Episcopal) with 27 million baptized members is the established church, but religious freedom is guaranteed to all.

HISTORY

The Roman invasion of 55 B.C. and subsequent incorporation into the Roman Empire stimulated the development of Britain and brought it into an active relationship with the rest of Europe. After the Romans' departure, the country remained prey to other invasions until the Norman conquest of 1066. Norman rule effectively assured Britain's safety from further invasion and stimulated the development of institutions, both new and indigenous, which have since distinguished British life. A central administration, the development of a separate but established church, common law,

and representative government, for example, gradually evolved after 1066.

Union

In its earliest history, Wales was an independent kingdom which for centuries repeatedly thwarted invasion attempts from England. The English conquest succeeded in 1282 under Edward I, and the Statute of Rhuddlan established English rule 2 years later. To appease the Welsh, Edward's son (later Edward II), who had been born in Wales, was made Prince of Wales in 1301. The tradition of bestowing this title on the eldest son of the British Monarch remains today. An act of 1536 completed the political and administrative union between England and Wales.

Scotland was also an independent kingdom which resisted English invasion attempts. England and Scotland united under one crown in 1603, when James VI of Scotland succeeded his cousin Elizabeth I as James I of England. In the ensuing 100 years strong religious and political differences continued to divide the kingdoms. Finally in 1707 England and Scotland agreed to union under the name of Great Britain. It was at this time that the Union Jack became the national flag.

The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1170 was the beginning of centuries of strife. Successive English kings sought to impose their will on the Irish, whose cause was finally defeated in 1602 after which Ireland was subjected, with varying degrees of success, to control and regulation by Britain. The legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland was completed on January 1, 1801, under the name of the United Kingdom. However, armed struggle for political independence continued sporadically into the 20th century. The Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 established the Irish Free State (see *Background Notes* on Ireland, pub. 7974). The six northern and predominantly Protestant Irish counties remained part of the United Kingdom.

British Expansion

Begun initially in support of William the Conqueror's (c. 1028-1087) holdings in France, a policy of active

involvement in European affairs was embarked on which endured for several hundred years. By the end of the 14th century, foreign trade, originally based on wool exports to Europe, had emerged as a cornerstone of national policy. The foundations of sea power—to protect Britain's trade and open up new routes—were gradually laid. Defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 firmly established Britain as a major sea power. Thereafter, its interests outside Europe grew steadily.

Attracted by the spice trade, British mercantile interests spread first to the Far East. In search of an alternate route to the Spice Islands, John Cabot reached the American Continent in 1498. Sir Walter Raleigh organized the first, short-lived British colony in Virginia in 1584, and permanent British settlement followed. During the ensuing two centuries, alternately in contest and concord with its European neighbors, Britain extended its influence abroad and consolidated its political development at home. The territorial foundation of the 20th-century British Empire, with the principal exceptions of parts of Africa and India, had already been laid by the time of the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

Great Britain's industrial revolution—developed with impressive force at the very time it lost the American colonies—greatly strengthened its ability to oppose Napoleonic France. By the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars in 1815, the United Kingdom had no peer in Europe, and its navy ruled the seas. The peace in Europe that followed allowed the British once again to focus their interests on more remote parts of the world, sometimes at the expense of European rivals. During this period, the British Empire reached its zenith. British colonies, skillfully managed, contributed to the United Kingdom's extraordinary economic growth and strengthened its voice in world affairs. Paradoxically, the United Kingdom became more imperial as it continued to strengthen and broaden its democratic institutions.

Twentieth Century

By the time of Queen Victoria's death in 1901, however, the tide had turned. Other nations, including the United States and Germany, had bene-

fited from their own industrial development. The United Kingdom's comparative economic advantage had lessened, and the ambitions of its rivals had grown. The First World War drastically depleted British resources and consequently undermined its ability to maintain the dominant role of the previous century. As the United Kingdom's independent power base weakened, it began to move toward the close ties with the United States which are characteristic of current policy.

British control over the Empire loosened during the interwar period. Ireland, with the exception of Ulster, broke away from the United Kingdom in 1921. Nationalism became stronger in other parts of the Empire, particularly in India and Egypt. In 1926 the United Kingdom granted Australia, Canada, and New Zealand complete autonomy within the Empire. As such, they became charter members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, an informal but closely knit association destined to succeed the Empire. Throughout the interwar period, moreover, the British economy continued to lose ground to competitors.

TRAVEL NOTES

Clothing — Fall and winter clothing is needed about 9 months of the year, while spring and summer clothing is useful the rest of the year.

Health — Good medical facilities are available. Living conditions are generally excellent, and no significant health hazards exist.

Telecommunications — London and nearly all U.K. localities are served by an automatic dial-through telephone system. Cities in the U.S. and Western Europe can also be reached by direct dialing. Internal and international service is efficient.

Transportation — Great Britain is a crossroads for international air and shipping routes and is also accessible by highway and train from points throughout Europe.

Rail, air, and bus transportation in the U.K. is very good and travel between all points is quick and easy. Rental cars are available, and traffic moves on the left.

World War II sealed the fate of the British Empire. Unable to maintain control, the United Kingdom began the process of dismantling the Empire in 1947. Most of the viable colonial units have now been granted independence in an orderly and generous manner. Southern Rhodesia, however, unilaterally declared itself independent in November 1965 in opposition to British attempts to foster a government representing blacks as well as whites.

In recent years, as its global commitments have been reduced, the U.K. has sought to achieve a closer association with Europe. Its 1973 entry into the European Community was a major political event and one which engendered heated political debate. The government, under Prime Minister Harold Wilson, has renegotiated the U.K.'s original terms of entry and will submit the question of continued membership to referendum in the summer of 1975.

GOVERNMENT

The unwritten British Constitution is based partly on statute, partly on common law, and partly on the "traditional rights of Englishmen." Constitutional changes may come about formally through new Acts of Parliament, or informally through the acceptance of new traditions and usage, or by new judicial precedents. Although Parliament has the theoretical power to make or unmake any law, in practice the weight of 700 years of tradition restrains arbitrary actions.

Executive government rests nominally with the Monarch. In actual practice it is exercised by a committee of Ministers (Cabinet) who traditionally are selected from among the members of the House of Commons and to a lesser extent, the House of Lords. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in the Commons, and his government is dependent on its support.

The Parliament of the United Kingdom represents the entire country and can legislate for the whole or for any constituent part or combination of parts. The life of a Parliament is fixed by law at 5 years, although the Prime Minister may dissolve it and call a general election at any time if his

policies are severely criticized. The locus of legislative power is the 635-member House of Commons, which has sole jurisdiction over finance. The House of Lords, although shorn of most of its powers, can still review, amend, or delay for a limited time any legislation except money bills. Only a fraction of the some 900 members attend regularly, but the House of Lords has greater leisure than does the House of Commons to debate public issues—one of its more important functions.

The judiciary is independent of the legislative and executive branches of government, but it cannot review the constitutionality of legislation.

The separate identity of each of the Kingdom's constituent parts is taken into account. Welsh affairs, for example, are administered at the national level by a Cabinet Minister (the Secretary of State for Wales), with the advice of a broadly representative Council for Wales. At the local level, the Welsh-speaking minority in Wales are permitted their own schools. Scotland continues, as before the union, to enjoy a different system of law (Roman-Dutch), education, local government, judiciary, and national church (the disestablished Presbyterian Church of Scotland). In addition, most domestic matters are handled by separate government departments grouped under the Secretary of State for Scotland, who is also a Cabinet member.

Recently, popular opinion in Scotland has strongly favored governmental decentralization by devolution of power to a local legislature. While the roots of the devolution movement are found in Scotland's history as an independent nation, it also reflects Scottish dissatisfaction with Westminster rule. More recently, this movement has been fueled by anticipated North Sea oil revenues. Opinion polls clearly indicate the vast majority of Scots wish only a greater voice in the affairs of government, but a Scottish nationalist movement favoring an independent Scotland has been able to exploit popular discontent electorally. A linguistically based Welsh national movement has also demanded devolution of government powers in that ancient nation but lacks the popular appeal of its Scottish counterpart. As a

result, the current Labor government has committed itself to devolving as yet unspecified powers to locally elected assemblies.

Until March 1972 Northern Ireland had its own Parliament and Prime Minister, although the British Government retained ultimate responsibility. As a result of civil strife over the past several years, however, the Northern Ireland Parliament was suspended. The shape of the new institutions which will replace it has not yet been decided. Northern Ireland continues to be represented by 12 members in the U.K.'s House of Commons.

Principal Government Officials

Queen Elizabeth II
Prime Minister — Harold Wilson
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs — James Callaghan
Chancellor of the Exchequer — Denis Healey
Secretary of State for Defense — Roy Mason
Ambassador to the U.S. — Sir Peter Ramsbotham
Ambassador to the U.N. — Ivor Richard

The U.K. maintains an Embassy in the U.S. at 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20008. There are also Consulates General at Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Louis, New York, San Francisco, and Philadelphia, and Consulates at Miami, Boston, and Minneapolis.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The Labor Party returned to power following the February 1974 general elections, making it the largest party in Parliament but still 17 seats short of an overall majority. After 7 months of minority government, Prime Minister Harold Wilson called a general election in October 1974. Labor polled slightly over 39 percent of the popular vote, winning 319 seats, which gave it a narrow 3-seat majority in the House of Commons.

The Labor government's program is directed at overcoming what it has called "the gravest economic crisis Britain has faced since the war." The Social Contract — a voluntary compact

between the Party and the trade union movement — is the linch pin of its program. Superceding the statutory wage/price and industrial relations policies of the previous Conservative government, its fundamental objective is a fuller measure of social justice in the U.K. It commits the government to extend and improve social services, to insure a more equitable sharing of national wealth, to maintain full employment, and to nationalize selected industrial sectors — all in an environment of free collective bargaining. The unions are pledged to restrain wage demands to a level which maintains, but does not increase, their share of the economic pie. Consequently, the success of Labor's program will be largely determined in the industrial relations crucible.

The Conservative Party holds 276 of the 635 seats in the House of Commons. In the election of October 1974, it polled only 35.8 percent of the vote — its lowest share in over a century. Partly in response to that poor showing, the Party elected a new leader, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, in February 1975. Regarded as being somewhat to the right of her predecessor, Edward Heath, she is the first woman to lead a political party in Britain.

The Liberal Party won 18.3 percent of the popular vote in the October 1974 election, but holds only 13 seats in the House of Commons. Out of office for more than half a century, it offers itself as a moderate alternative to the two larger parties but has not yet managed a decisive electoral breakthrough. Its current leader is Jeremy Thorpe.

Minor parties won 26 seats in the October election. In addition to the 12 Northern Ireland seats, which in recent years have gone to local rather than national parties, nationalist groups in Scotland and Wales accounted for the remaining 14 seats. This upsurge is a reflection of growing nationalist sentiment in these historic nations of Britain, especially in Scotland. The separatist Scottish National Party (SNP) doubled its poll in both the February and October elections, taking 30 percent of the total Scottish vote and 11 parliamentary seats in the latter. Many observers believe the SNP represents a very real threat to the continued unity

of the United Kingdom. The Communist Party is numerically and politically insignificant and holds no seats in Parliament.

ECONOMY*

The United Kingdom remains one of the world's leading industrial and trading nations. Because of its economic importance, the U.K. has had a major impact on the development of the international trading and monetary systems as they are known today. The United Kingdom has few natural resources, and its soil is capable of yielding only about half of its total food requirements; hence, it is one of the world's leading importers of primary products and an important exporter of manufactured goods. The pound sterling is still an important trading currency.

Since World War II, the British economy has grown substantially, although at an uneven rate. The United Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1973 was US \$151.9 billion, compared with \$89.2 billion in 1962.

Despite this expansion and the accompanying rise in the British standard of living (per capita GNP is currently a little over \$2,700 compared with \$1,672 in 1962), the economy has not grown as rapidly as those of many other Western European countries. Per capita GNP is less than half that of the United States.

The United Kingdom has for the most part welcomed foreign direct investment, particularly from companies which promise to contribute to the expansion of British exports, introduce new techniques, or increase employment in areas of high unemployment. In 1973 more than 1,600 U.S. companies had subsidiaries in the U.K. with a year-end book value of nearly \$8 billion. The U.K. has received about 10 percent of total U.S. foreign

*The U.K. exchange rate has fluctuated in recent years. From 1971 to mid-1972 the pound (£) ranged from \$2.40 to \$2.60, and since the floating of the pound in June 1972, it varied from a low of \$2.32 back to \$2.40. These changes make exact comparisons in terms of U.S. dollars difficult and imprecise. In this section, conversions have been made at the rate in effect at the time.

direct investment and, next to Canada, is the largest single recipient of such investment.

Since 1945 the U.K. has been plagued with recurring balance-of-payments problems. The inability of the country to earn sufficient foreign exchange to cover its import needs and foreign economic and military expenditures forced several devaluations of the pound sterling. In June 1972 the U.K. Government decided to let the pound float. The rate subsequently fell back to \$2.40 and in January 1975 stood at about \$2.43. There are many factors which have contributed to U.K. post World War II balance-of-payments problems. Some of these factors have been:

- (1) The decline in the U.K.'s share of exports of manufactures among the leading free world industrial countries (from 18.2% in 1958 to 8.1% in 1973);
- (2) The loss of British overseas investment during World War II and British industry's efforts to expand its foreign investments; and
- (3) The high cost of fulfilling overseas defense and aid commitments of a major world power (although these costs have been declining over recent years).

Prospects for 1975 appear to indicate only modest improvement in the trade balance, coming primarily from increases in export prices relative to import prices with little change in the volume of either. Some private U.K. forecasts predict no change in the level of trade over the year as a whole with exchange rates coming under increased pressure unless the rate of domestic inflation is reduced.

Agriculture and Industry

Agriculture is highly mechanized and one of the largest and most important sectors of economic activity. The government is seeking to increase farm size, which averages about 70 acres, by merging farms and easing small, uneconomic producers out of agriculture.

British industry is a mixture of public and privately owned firms. Several important British industries are

under public ownership—steel, railroads, coal mining, certain utilities, and a large part of civil aviation. In 1973 the private sector accounted for 60 percent of capital investment, 27 percent came from central and local government, and 15 percent was provided by public corporations. The share of manufacturing industry in total capital expenditure was 19 percent in 1973. Private British industry is characterized by a large number of comparatively small firms, but there is a growing trend toward larger industrial units.

The rate of economic expansion is uneven between areas within the U.K., and the government has taken important measures aimed at promoting more balanced economic development. Large parts of the U.K. have been designated as development areas; investment grants and a wide range of financial and other inducements are available to businesses deciding to locate or expand their operations in these areas.

The United Kingdom issued its first licenses for the exploration of oil and gas resources under the western half of the North Sea in 1964. Since then, discoveries of gas and oil have clearly established the North Sea as a major source of energy for Britain and the Continent. By the 1980's, North Sea oil and gas may be providing 65 percent of Britain's energy requirements. Of the remainder, depending on investment decisions made in the 1970's, 10 percent of Britain's requirements may be met by nuclear power, while the rest of her requirements should be met by domestic resources of coal.

Government agencies primarily responsible for economic policy are the Treasury and the Departments of Trade, Industry, Environment, and Employment. The National Economic Development Organization and a number of subsidiary economic development committees in the major industrial sectors serve as a link between industry and government in encouraging more efficient use of labor. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is the central body representing British industry. It serves as an important channel between government and industry.

Labor

In mid-1973, the United Kingdom had about 24.9 million workers, some 34 percent of the total population. Approximately 46 percent (around 11.5 million) of the labor force belong to the country's 495 unions. More than 76 percent of all trade unionists are in the 24 largest unions while more than half are in the 9 unions with a membership of over 250,000. Nearly 10 million workers are members of the 126 organizations affiliated with the Trades Union Congress (TUC), a federation of constituent unions which celebrated its centenary in 1968.

The general unemployment rate in Britain as a whole in the last 25 years has been among the lowest in the world, usually between 1 and 2 percent of the working population. In 1966, however, it rose markedly to about 2.2 percent, and has steadily increased since it was 2.7 percent in January 1974. It has been consistently higher in those parts of the country which have the greatest dependence on shipbuilding, coal mining, and certain branches of the heavy engineering and metal manufacturing industries (notably parts of Scotland, Wales, northeast England, and Merseyside).

Early in 1974 the British industrial relations scene was transformed with the election of a Labor government after almost 4 years of Conservative rule. This change was emphasized by the repeal of the Conservative government's highly controversial industrial and economic legislation — the Industrial Relations Act 1971 and the Counter-Inflation program — and the emergence of the Social Contract between the Labor government and the TUC as the means to fight inflation and reform the social and industrial scene.

The essence of the Social Contract is that in return for government action on measures of social and economic equity the trade unions will operate a voluntary restraint on incomes. This restraint comprises a set of guidelines issued by the TUC to all affiliates, the main point being that wage increases should merely keep pace with the increase in the cost of living. At the end of 1974, despite a record rate of increase in wage rates of almost 30 percent and in prices of almost 20

percent, the Social Contract remained unchanged as the central feature of government policy, though efforts to get the TUC to tighten the wage guidelines continue.

The Industrial Relations Act 1971, which was bitterly opposed by the trade unions, was replaced in July 1974 by the Trade Union and Labor Relations Act. This is a return to the position which existed before 1971, restoring to workers the rights and protections they had traditionally enjoyed since the beginning of the century. A new independent Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) was also established; new

READING LIST

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material available on this country. The Department of State does not endorse the specific views in unofficial publications as representing the position of the U.S. Government.

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comprehensive legislation covering Health and Safety at Work enacted; and proposals put forward for the second stage of the Labor government's program of legislation on industrial relations, an Employment Protection Bill, and legislation against sex discrimination in all walks of life.

Foreign Assistance

The United Kingdom's aid program to developing countries includes loans and grants, technical assistance, budgetary support, and contributions to international agencies which provide financial aid and technical assistance.

Although the British aid program is global in character, approximately 90 percent goes to Commonwealth countries. The major recipients in recent years have been the Commonwealth countries of Africa and South Asia, particularly India, Nigeria, Kenya, and Malawi. Malaysia, Pakistan, the South Arabian Federation, and the West Indies also received sizable amounts of U.K. aid.

Total net official and private flows in 1973 were \$4,058 million. The U.K. has pledged to do its best to maintain overall United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) target of 1 percent of GNP for net flows of financial resources to developing countries, but the percentage declined to 0.61 in 1973.

The British aid program is administered by the Overseas Development Administration (DA), a self-contained wing of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, headed by a Minister for Overseas Development.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The United Kingdom is one of our closest allies. We consult and coordinate our policies across a broad range of matters of mutual interest. The U.K. has few military commitments outside Europe but retains substantial economic and political interests in all parts of the world. It is a charter member of the United Nations (with a permanent seat on the Security Council) and belongs to most of its specialized agencies.

The United Kingdom is an important member of NATO providing military forces on the Central European front. At the same time it desires to

work for relaxation of tensions between East and West. Economic limitations have caused the U.K. to review defense expenditures with resulting reductions in forces outside the NATO area. The U.K. has been especially anxious to achieve progress on arms control and disarmament and consequently has taken a leading role in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. It has adhered to the Nuclear Nonproliferation and Limited Test Ban Treaties.

It has strongly supported the United States in negotiating strategic arms limitations with the Soviets and participates with other Allies in the current negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions in Europe.

The U.K. entered the European Communities on January 1, 1973. Its membership has been the subject of prolonged domestic controversy, however, and the Labor government has promised to put the question of remaining in or withdrawing to a popular referendum in June 1975. The results of that referendum will inevitably have major consequences for the future orientation of Britain's foreign relations.

The Commonwealth of Nations*

Almost all of the former British colonies have become independent members of the Commonwealth, a tribute to its latter-day enlightenment as a colonizer. While increasingly weakened by economic and political nationalism and most recently by Southern Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence (see *Background Notes* on Southern Rhodesia, pub. 8104), the Commonwealth offers the United Kingdom an important entree and a voice in many developing countries. Moreover, it helps to preserve in those countries many British institutions, such as parliamentary democra-

*Members are: United Kingdom, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Western Samoa, and Zambia. Nauru and the Associated States of the eastern Caribbean are associated with the Commonwealth but are not full members in every respect.

cy. The U.K. maintains a military presence in Southeast Asia as part of a joint Commonwealth force.

U.S.-U.K. RELATIONS

The United Kingdom places primary emphasis in its foreign policy on the maintenance of a close relationship with the United States. U.S.-U.K. cooperation reflects the common language, ideals, and democratic practices of the two countries, as well as the historical circumstances which have given the United Kingdom and the United States similar interests and objectives. The relationship was strengthened by the U.K.'s alliance with the U.S. during both World Wars and the Korean conflict. After World War II it took on renewed meaning in

opposition to the threat of forceful Soviet expansion.

The United Kingdom and the United States continually consult on foreign policy issues and problems ranging all over the globe. It supports the major foreign and security policy objectives of the United States and remains one of the United States' most valued allies.

The United Kingdom has cooperated with the United States in attempts to accelerate the growth of developing countries through national and international channels.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador – Elliott L. Richardson
 Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission) –
 Ronald I. Spiers

Minister for Economic and Commercial Affairs – William K. Miller
 Counselor for Political Affairs – Alan James
 Counselor for Consular Affairs – John R. Diggins
 Counselor for Administrative Affairs – Michael Conlin
 Counselor for Public Affairs – Michael Pistor
 Counselor for Commercial Affairs – Borrie I. Hyman
 Defense Attache – Rear Admiral James C. Longino, Jr., USN

The U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom is located at 24/31 Grosvenor Square, London, W1. There are also Consulates General at Belfast, Northern Ireland; Edinburgh, Scotland; and Liverpool, England.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 8099

Revised May 1975

Office of Media Services

Bureau of Public Affairs

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1975 O - 584-084 (2173)

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This form marks the file location of item number 1-2
listed on the pink Withdrawal Sheet found at the front of this folder.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

Two vacation suggestions (for you and Glenn Ann) from Robin West.

1. They are looking for a Cabinet-rank individual to attend Independence Day ceremonies in New Guinea September 16. While that might be a laugher, the individual so designated by the President can plan stop-overs in Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia.
2. Cabinet-rank type is needed to represent the President at the opening of Jefferson-Jackson celebration in London (September 6).

Robin is giving you first crack before running it by other candidates.

Please advise.



maybe



UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON 20547
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 6, 1975

EYES ONLY

Dear Jack:

Following up on our telephone conversation today, I wanted to provide information relevant to "The World of Franklin and Jefferson." As you know, this exhibit is the centerpiece of the Bicentennial observance overseas. It was conceived, executed and funded through the joint efforts of USIA, ARBA and IBM and has been extremely well received in Paris and Warsaw.

The United Kingdom showing opens to the public at the British Museum September 17, and continues through November 15. Prior to the public opening there will be two invitational previews -- on September 15, the Grand Opening (which the Prime Minister may attend), and on September 17 a special invitational showing for friends of the British Museum and leaders of the cultural and intellectual community. Additionally, the Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan, will host a reception for 200 invited guests at Trinity House on September 17. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will visit the exhibition on October 29. A tentative list of events being planned in connection with the exhibition is enclosed.

I think this gives you some idea of the great interest and enthusiasm in the exhibition (and indeed in the whole Bicentennial celebration) being shown by the highest levels of the British Government and cultural world. It was on this point that I called you today.

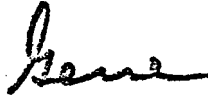
The Honorable
John Marsh
Counselor to the President
The White House



If you need any further information or if we can be of help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,



Eugene P. Kopp
Acting Director



"THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" EXHIBITION

LONDON SHOWING: OPENING DAY FUNCTIONS & ASSOCIATED EVENTS

THU SEP 11
10:30 am

Press preview at British Museum

FRI SEP 12
2:00 pm

Visual media to photograph exhibition and set up TV equipment for opening night coverage.

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6:00-8:30 pm.

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Exhibition opens to public

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Lecture by Professor J. Plumb Embassy Theater

WED OCT 1

Lecture by Dr. Brook Hindle Embassy Thea

WED OCT 29
9:00 pm

Visit by Queen Elizabeth II

WED NOV 5

Lecture in Embassy theater by Bernard Bailyn.

MON NOV 10

Reception for Benjamin Franklin Fellows, Ambassador's residence.

TUE NOV 11
7:30 pm

Private view and reception for Benjamin Franklin Fellows; Duke of Edinburgh presiding.

WED NOV 12
6:00 pm

Inaugural Benjamin Franklin lecture at Royal Society of Arts. Dinner for Franklin Fellows.

SAT NOV 15

Exhibition closes.



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBIN WEST

FROM:

JAMES KEOGH *JK*

SUBJECT:

London Opening of "The World
of Franklin and Jefferson" Exhibit

The Franklin and Jefferson Exhibit will open at the British Museum in London in September and will run through November 15.

The grand opening will take place at 6 p. m. on Monday, September 15, followed by a reception and dinner for 50 guests at the Ambassador's residence. There is a strong possibility that the Prime Minister will attend.

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Since this is an official Bicentennial project, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration is sending an official delegation to the opening. I understand that this delegation will consist of representatives from the Bicentennial Council of the 13 Original States. They and their entourage will number about 45. Since this makes it their show, USIA would not normally send a VIP representative. However, there is no reason why, with the proper coordination, we should not do so.



Arrangements in London are being coordinated by USIA working with the British Museum staff and IBM's public relations firm.



Queen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK MARSH

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suggested in the delegation there be included representatives from the Bicentennial Council of the 13 original colonies.

The question occurs as to who will head the delegation. Because of the expected high level of British participation, those working on the program are anxious to have a senior person head the group. The following names have been suggested:

_____ President
_____ Vice President
_____ Jack Marsh
_____ Governor Godwin (John Warner's
suggestion)

Having just returned from Europe as well as other schedule demands cause problems for the President. My recommendation is that the Vice President be selected. I think this will have a favorable impact not only on the program in London, but also will highlight the event here at home. It will also demonstrate the importance the President attaches to the Bicentennial, particularly its international meaning.

cc: DRumsfeld
BScowcroft
TMarrs



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1975

*bicent.
- Jeff + Franklin*

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BScowcroft
TMarrs



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1975

MEMO TO: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH *RAM*

Russ, I have some background information on the London trip, which we should discuss. There's also some information that you can relay to Robin West on this involving the Vice President.

1. Advised Warner & West of possible V.P. participation: when that decision made, will relay to West, who can then pursue list of participants; suspect mtg. will be necessary (of principals).



① Robert West -

a) Rocky heads

(2 days invented unit)

b) TI says JOM also

c) this changes mix of people

d) Gene Kopp

^{RAA}
(advise Warner that TI may want V.P. to
do this - will change the make-up of
the delegation I don't tell anyone

Ⓟ d) decision in days or two -



VP Trip File
(London)

August 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Attached you will find the schedule of events on the London opening of the Bicentennial Exhibit.

The key day is Monday, September 15.

Attachment

JOM:rs



Sent by messenger to VP office.

File to Annie
for JOM

VP Trip File
(London)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

SUBJECT: Discussion with Capt. Jonathan Howe,
Assistant to the Vice President for
National Security Affairs

I discussed the London trip again this morning with Captain Howe. He said that the Vice President "has some very real concerns about this trip, but if the President really wants him to go, he will go." Apparently Rockefeller's schedule during the month of September is very heavy.

I went through all of the details I had concerning this trip with Howe.

Howe asked that you call him at your convenience this afternoon to discuss your impression of how much emphasis the President was placing on Rockefeller's participation.

Note:

Mr. Marsh discussed above matter with Capt. Howe before this memo was finished. RS



AUG 15 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JB*
SUBJECT: The World of Franklin and Jefferson

The President has reviewed your memorandum of August 9th concerning the opening of the Bicentennial exhibit, "The World of Franklin and Jefferson" and selected the Vice President as Head of the U.S. Delegation.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Brent Scowcroft
Ted Marrs
Doug Bennett



*Rec'd. in early afternoon
mail 8/15.
rd*

August 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

CAPT. JONATHAN T. HOWE, USN
ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

FROM:

RUSSELL ROURKE

Further reference our conversation concerning the Vice President's participation in the Franklin-Jefferson Exhibit.

The attached communication from USIA to Jack Marsh will be of interest to the Vice President

Enclosures: ^{Copy of} USIA memo of 8/12/75 to John Marsh enclosing communication from Amer Embassy, London, concerning Prime Minister Wilson's plans to speak at opening ceremony

RAR:rs

(Sent in mail in red tag envelope.)

(A.M.)



UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

AUG 13 1975

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 12, 1975

NOTE TO: Honorable John Marsh
Counsellor to the President
The White House

Jack:

We have just received the attached cable from London. You will note that the Prime Minister plans to attend and speak at the opening ceremonies on September 15.

All the best,



Gene



RECEIVED

RR RUEHIA

DE RUDTC 2339 223 1709

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

10 ACTION ICS

R 111707Z AUG 75

INFO IEU IOP/G IOP/I DIS

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO USIA WASHDC 5378

BT

UNCLAS LONDON 12339

USIAC

FOR: IEU - ANTUNES (PASS ARBA FOR BLUE/MASEY); ICS/E

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FRANKLIN/JEFFERSON EXHIBITION

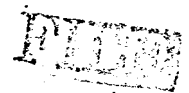
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2. URGENT POST BE APPRISED ASAP WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED PARTICIPATE IN EXHIBITION OPENING. IF SO,

EQUIRE NAME, BIODATA, DATES

LONDON VISIT, AND TEXT OF PROPOSED ADDRESS.

MILLER



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



R-

Have Howard
transmit this info
to V/TT. We must
coordinate Nesser on
announcement of V/P

UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

AUG 13 1975

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AUG 11 2 50 11 19

NNNNVV EHI 24

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MILLER



FILED

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON 20547

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Eugene P. Kopp

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

Honorable John Marsh
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Handcarry - By Messenger

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
RECEPTION & SECURITY

AUG 12 1975

Processed by: 

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1975

MR. MARSH:

Eugene Kopp called with the following:

In addition to the exhibit which then Vice President Nixon opened, I offer the following:

- 1) President Eisenhower personally opened the exhibit in New Delhi (Western Agricultural Exhibit - December 11, 1959).
- 2) The Izmir (Turkey) International Fair was visited by Vice President Johnson.
- 3) The International Fair at Thessaloniki, Greece, was visited by Vice President Johnson - September '62).
- 4) EXPO '67 in Montreal was visited by President Johnson - May 25, 1967 - along with a special Congressional delegation.

Connie



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



FRI. -

1. RAR called ✓
McFarlane - WCB

2. Spoke w/ West
a. West preparing
tentative list: I
would recommend
either a mtg. or
circulation of list
of proposed invitees.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2235

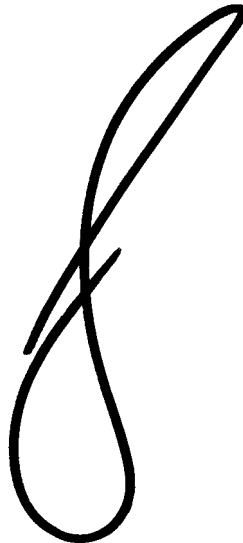
August 15, 1975

RUSS:

Mr. Marsh wanted you to coordinate the London event - when is it being announced and who does the announcing.

He said also to coordinate with those people appearing on the attached list. You're to check with Bud McFarlane regarding the two people from the Embassy (Glover and Martin). He thought you might want to tell Mr. Glover the project is being pulled together, and that there should be an announcement shortly. There will be a very high level of American interest in the event.

Connie

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a single continuous loop that forms a vertical figure-eight shape.A faint, circular stamp or seal, partially visible in the bottom right corner of the page. The text within the stamp is illegible due to fading.

R-

Coordination/Leader

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. R. West | 8. Warner |
| 2. Copp | 9. Embassy |
| 3. Howell | 4. Glover |
| 4. Speshes/Nessen | B. Martin |
| 5. McFarland | |
| 6. Richardson | |
| 7. Marrs | |



August 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Attached you will find the schedule of events on the London opening of the Bicentennial Exhibit.

The key day is Monday, September 15.

Attachment

JOM:rs

Sent by messenger to VP's office.



Franklin & Jefferson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1975

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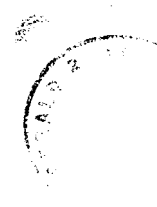
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BScowcroft
TMarrs



AUG 7 1975



UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON 20547
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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EYES ONLY

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The White House



- 2 -

If you need any further information or if we can be of help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

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Eugene P. Kopp
Acting Director

A circular stamp, partially visible, with some illegible text and numbers around the perimeter.

"THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" EXHIBITION

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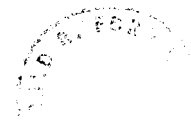
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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
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July 30, 1975

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ROBIN WEST

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JAMES KEOGH *JK*

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Arrangements in London are being coordinated by USIA working with the British Museum staff and IBM's public relations firm.

APR 1954



July 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN O. MARSH, JR.
FROM: JOHN W. WARNER

The dates for the opening of "The World of Franklin and Jefferson" exhibit in London have now been established as September 15 and 16, 1975.

I recommend that the President designate Governor Mills Godwin of Virginia as the head of this delegation. The balance of the delegation will be composed of myself and one individual designated by the Governor of each of the 13 original colonies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Warner", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John W. Warner
Administrator

August 7

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Jack --

A reminder of your intention to
initiate staffing memo re Delegation
to London Opening of Franklin/
Jefferson exhibit.

R

Russ



8-15
August 6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Russ --

Can Ted be included in this also?

Jack



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 8/1/75

FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: J. ROBINSON WEST

SUBJECT: Franklin Jefferson Exhibit
For your information.

Per our conversation.

Attachments

Ted?

"THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" EXHIBITION

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SAT NOV 15 Exhibition closes.



6 P.M.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

event

Sept

15

- 17

event

14-

18

Bicentennial

SEP 15 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

R Werner says it
must be Adams
or Tom, not Max.
or anyone else -
(all orig. 13 colony
Gov's want to do
it).

M

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1975

Jack --

At our request, Robin West is preparing a fact sheet on the London trip.

FYI, I have not committed you as yet, but have put the trip "on hold."

R
Russ



R
DISCUSS
to dean
gm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1. 1 Rep. Co.

1. Jack in 13 orig. states -

2. Key ← 2. cl of mem submit people

3. Warner?

H.

USIA should submit memo



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

statutory responsibility
to conduct I should
belong to USIA -

They USIA had
to pull their chestnuts
out of fire -



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RAR get
Keigh memo -

