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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 June 1984

Than Pome Thinker,

I believe it will not be long before consultations are opened with Commonwealth Heads of Government about the most convenient date for the next Heads of Government meeting, in the latter part of 1985. I thought it might therefore be timely for me to let you have some thoughts on the selection of dates.

I understand that your preliminary consultations with the Palace have indicated that the second half of October would be convenient to Her Majesty The Queen. Perhaps I could add my personal preference for this period also.

As our High Commissioner, Mr. Heap, has already mentioned to you, my own preference would be for a Conference over the third weekend in October, that is to say from 17 or 18 to 21 October. I gathered from our High Commissioner that you yourself preferred the first half of October. I would personally find it very difficult to leave Britain before the end of the Conservative Party Conference on 12 October. November, with Her Majesty's State Opening of the new session of Parliament would also be very difficult for me.

I am writing also to Sonny Ramphal.

Your sweety