

Prime Minister

(1)

Clare - to see.

16 March 1982

Agree?

PA.

MR SCHOLAR

MCS 17/3

I see that Sir John King is spending half an hour with the Prime Minister on 8 April. I would very much like to sit in on that meeting.

I have met King - spent an hour or so discussing his problems (not least with his board!) Our dear claim to know him well.

JOHN HOSKYNS

It is a private meeting - at his request. I think it had better stay private.
rob.

Told Mr Hoskyns

MCS 18/3

→ CF pp^s pl

5/4



NOTE
Mr Henderson
will not come

MUS 5/4

10 DOWNING STREET

(1)

Prime Minister

As agreed, we have arranged for Sir J King (with Alex Dibbs, his joint Deputy Chairman, and also Alan Wheatley of Price Waterhouse) to come in on Maundy Thursday to discuss the Price Waterhouse Report on British Airways.

John Biffen has asked if he may bring Ian Sproat and Michael Franklin - and thinks that it would be a good idea if Leon Brittan

FOVER

attended, too.

Agree?

We will be letting you have
a brief early next week.

MLS 2/4

Please - it is not

a mass meeting.

I have already returned
John Hoyle's.

John Bitter can of
come over - but we are
the no

**British
airways**

Cleveland House, St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LN
Telephone: 01-9309766

Aerospac

Prime Minister

No need to read this

|| tonight. I am having a
summary done for you.

12th March 1982

But you might look at
pp's 1-4 : a ghastly
catalogue - esp
recommendation 4 (given
that the loans are from
banks as I understand it).

Mls 15/3

Sir John King
Chairman

By Hand

The Prime Minister,
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
10, Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister

I enclose a copy of the Price Waterhouse report concerning British Airways, the contents of which I shall be discussing with the Secretary of State for Trade and his colleagues on Wednesday of next week.

I hope you will have time to read some of it as it will give you a glimpse of the inside of a nationalised industry!!!

It would be helpful to me if I could see you some-time on Thursday, 18th March. I would like to bring along Mr. Alex Dibbs and introduce Mr. Alan Wheatley to you. He led the PW team which is responsible for the Report. If John Biffen could be there also, that would be most helpful and what I am seeking is a very informal thirty minutes or so. If you are free on Thursday, a meeting could be any time after 5.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely
John King

Enclosure:

P.S. Since writing this letter I believe a meeting has been arranged for 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 8th April. I am most grateful to you.

①

PRIME MINISTER

* about
1/2 hour

Sir John King has been in touch with us to ask whether he could come to see you towards the end of next week, for a general discussion* about the financial position of British Airways: in particular the report of the Price Waterhouse team, and privatisation plans.

John Biffen is happy with this proposal, and would himself be ready to come. Sir John King would like to bring with him his Joint Deputy Chairman, Mr Alex Dibbs, and would like to introduce Mr. Alan Wheatley who led the Price Waterhouse team.

Agree to a meeting on these lines?

MCS Yes mt.

11 March 1982

cc Mr Gow
Mr Vereker

1700
Rang today no
good next week.
21.12/3.

Michael Scholze

PRIVATE AND PERSONAL

11th March 1982

Many thanks for your letter of 10th March, which you had written following our talk on the telephone.

We will be in touch with you very shortly about this.

I much appreciate your courtesy in having written as you did.

IAN GOW

Sir John King

British airways

Cleveland House, St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LN
Telephone: 01-9309766

Sir John King
Chairman

10th March 1982

Private and Personal

Ian Gow Esq., MP.,
10, Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Dear Ian

In writing to the Prime Minister as follows:

"I enclose a copy of the Price Waterhouse report concerning British Airways, the contents of which I shall be discussing with the Secretary of State for Trade and his colleagues on Wednesday of next week. *

I hope you will have time to read some of it as it will give you a glimpse of the inside of a nationalised industry!!!

It would be helpful to me if I could see you sometime on Thursday, 18th March. I would like to bring along Mr. Alex Dibbs and introduce Mr. Alan Wheatley to you. He led the PW team which is responsible for the Report. If John Biffen could be there also, that would be most helpful and what I am seeking is a very informal thirty minutes or so. If you are free on Thursday, a meeting could be any time after 5.30 p.m."

* The letter to the Prime Minister will be dated and sent round by hand on Friday 12th March.

I am anxious to explain to you the reason for suggesting 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 18th March and I hope she will not think me presumptuous in doing so. Friday morning is all right up to 12.30 midday. Otherwise I am stuck. I go to Scotland that afternoon for the annual Babcock Power Dinner at the Renfrew Works, to London early Monday morning to New York and San Francisco. Otherwise I would never have dreamt of attempting to impose a time.

As an
John King
John King