



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

A familiar gesture. Agree?  
(You will, of course, be in Mexico - 9 June 1981  
or on your way there - on 20/21 October.)

Agreed provided

Dear Michael,

Print it in 9/6  
A cultural  
exhibition only?

The Great Japan Exhibition

I am writing to ask whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to accept an invitation to join (with the Japanese Prime Minister) the Committee of Honour of the Great Japan Exhibition which is being staged by the Royal Academy from October 1981 to February 1982. The Japanese Prime Minister has not yet been approached but we believe that he would accept if the Prime Minister accepted. Lord Carrington has already accepted an invitation to join the Committee. No duties are involved but if the Prime Minister were free to do so, she might wish to attend the opening ceremony which will probably be on 20 or 21 October.

The Great Japan Exhibition will be the Royal Academy's major international event of the year and the first such occasion involving Japan. It will be on a scale of the Academy's Chinese Exhibition and the British Museum's Tutankhamun Exhibition. Its effect will add considerably to Japanese political and cultural links with Britain.

As you know, the Japanese Prime Minister is coming here for talks on 17 June. If the Prime Minister were prepared to accept the invitation to join the Committee of Honour of the Exhibition, the visit could perhaps be an appropriate time to make a joint announcement.

No formal invitations have been issued to the Prime Minister or Mr Suzuki, but if the Prime Minister were willing to accept, invitations would be issued straight away.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

Japan.

FILE

dl

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 June 1981

The Great Japan Exhibition

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 9 June about the Great Japan Exhibition. On the assumption that this is simply a cultural exhibition, the Prime Minister would be prepared to become a member of the Committee of Honour. She could not of course attend the opening ceremony if it were on 20 or 21 October since on these days she will be on her way to, or in, Mexico.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MR ALEXANDER.

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Japan Exhibition.

Sir Hugh Casson's MSN has  
come to me. I may feel to  
find out what was happening,  
and they are writing to you  
about a proposed announcement.  
In the light of that, would  
you like to deal, please,  
with Sir Hugh's MSN?

CYP  
... 16/6.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Michael,*

16 June 1981

The Great Japan Exhibition

Thank you for your letter of 12 June indicating that the Prime Minister would be willing to become a member of the Committee of Honour of the Great Japan Exhibition. I confirm that this is simply a cultural exhibition.

We have been in touch with the Japanese Embassy, who are gratified. They, in turn, have been in touch with Mr Suzuki in Brussels and confirm that he would equally be willing to become a member of the Committee.

The Japanese Embassy have suggested that this might be announced at the Prime Minister's lunch on Wednesday and followed up at the press conference that Mr Suzuki is giving at 3.30 p.m. that afternoon.

I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible whether these suggested arrangements are acceptable.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O D'B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

Japan

SS

17 June 1981

THE GREAT JAPAN EXHIBITION

We have already had a word on the telephone about your letter to me of 16 June. I am writing now to confirm that the Prime Minister and Mr. Suzuki both announced at lunch today their willingness to join the Committee of Honour of the Great Japan Exhibition.

MODBA

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CS