

HIT 026/2
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15 MAR 1994
British High Commission
Belmopan

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1 March 1994

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Dear Greg,

ROYAL VISIT TO BELIZE : LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE

1. In FCO telno 19 [redacted] asked for copies of local press coverage to be sent to WIAD and RMU.
2. I enclose a collection which includes all the main items. If WIAD want their own in order to make a complete set on the Caribbean tour they will no doubt ask you.
3. As I reported in my telno 37 media coverage of this most successful visit was extensive and mainly rapturous. There was live TV and radio coverage throughout the visit. Edited videos of the Royal Visit by the Belize Information Service and an independent TV company will soon be on sale: if copies of these are required by anyone in London please let us know.
4. Press coverage was rather more mixed and was influenced by party political and ideological affiliations. The Government papers - UDP "People's Pulse" and NABR "Alliance Weekly" gave extensive splash treatment with lots of photographs as did the independent middle of the road "Reporter". But the PUP "Belize Times" was much more muted with a short front page report and photographs confined to The Queen with George Price and the PUP Mayor of Belize City. The black consciousness anti-colonial newspaper "Amandala" (which has the largest circulation of all owing to its comprehensive sports coverage but is not very influential politically) faced a problem in reporting this manifestly overwhelmingly popular Royal Visit. I had expected a sour editorial on a republican theme (their leader after the announcement of our garrison evolution plans last year was headed "They came, they exploited, now they leave"). The paper chose not to run an editorial at all but to have a tiny report on its front page with the

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least attractive photograph they could find plus some disobliging commentaries on inside pages and a reproduction of a September report in the Jamaican "Gleaner" headed "Keating tells Queen Australia no longer wants her". On the evidence of this visit Belize is unlikely to follow Mr Keating's lead.

*Yours ever,
David*

David Mackilligin

cc with enc. RMU
cc without enc. [REDACTED] Esq
WIAD

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