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ROYAL VISIT TO BELIZE (22-24 FEBRUARY)

SUMMARY

M.P.  
CO 1/2

1. A happy, incident free, well-organised visit which attracted immense public attention and gave great pleasure both to the vast majority of Belizeans and the Royal party. Belizeans' warm regard and affection for the Queen much in evidence. The link with the Crown reinvigorated.

2. Belizean and British interests both well served. Morale and self-confidence here boosted at a difficult time and Belize's international profile as a parliamentary democracy, a realm and a superb eco-tourist destination given a considerable lift. The non-defence aspects of our bilateral relationship brought back into focus. Warm expression of gratitude for our help to Belize over the years from the Belizean VIP speakers at the public ceremonies.

3. Media coverage extensive and mostly rapturous. A few discordant notes from the local and British press did not mar the success of the visit which was a personal triumph for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

4. [REDACTED]

5. I shall send a detailed report to the department by bag.

MACKILLIGIN