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AND TO ROUTINE ANGUILLA, GEORGETOWN, BELMOPAN, GRAND CAYMAN
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YOUR TELNO 19 TO ANGUILLA: ROYAL VISIT

SUMMARY

1. Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness Prince Philip with Baroness Chalker as Minister in Attendance paid a stopover visit to Dominica on 19 February on their way from Anguilla to Guyana. A short but highly successful visit which might provide the format for some future visits in this area.

DETAIL

2. Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness Prince Philip with Baroness Chalker in attendance made a 35 minute stopover (refuelling) visit to Dominica on their way from Anguilla to Guyana. Despite various local practical difficulties, such as the need to bring a fuel bowser on an incredible 9 hour journey from Dominica's other airport, and that Melville Hall Airport is a white knuckle landing strip in the middle of nowhere, the visit went off very smoothly. The VIP room had been transformed by Dame Eugenia's personal intervention: she begged and borrowed, if not stole, paint, carpets, chairs and kitchen cupboards from a variety of local sources. Those who knew the VIP room's previous sordid state cannot but applaud her efforts.

3. The visit allowed Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to meet the new President of Dominica, Mr Rupert Sorhaindo and his wife, to renew their long standing acquaintance with the ever formidable Dame Eugenia and to meet members of the Cabinet, who were all genuinely delighted at the visit. What might have been a perfunctory refuelling stop therefore was nicely turned into a mini visit which will have achieved most of the purposes of a full length State Visit. The event was, of course, covered fully by the local media and was filmed by a TV team headed by Clive Anderson (one of the hottest properties on British TV at present, I am

assured).

4. There was the added bonus that Dame Eugenia and the Baroness Chalker were able to conduct some urgent business relating to the serious crisis in the Windward Island banana industry.

COMMENT

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visitation
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stim?*

5. In the light of the evident success of this informal but dignified visit I would recommend that consideration be given to incorporating such mini visits in any future royal tours, certainly in the Eastern Caribbean.

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