

Ref: A09794

MR. CARTLEDGE

Econ Policy 2

Prime Minister

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To note.

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The Prime Minister will probably know that it is customary during the Economic Summits for one meal to be set aside for a political discussion by Heads of Government only. This is not part of the Summit itself and no reference is made to the subjects discussed in the final communique. But sometimes this informal political discussion has been of considerable importance.

The Prime Minister may like to know that at the preparatory meeting in Paris on 14th-15th June Mr. Miyazaki gave some indication of the subjects which Mr. Ohira would like to discuss at this meal (lunch on Friday, 22nd June). In the main they were the obvious ones (the Carter-Brezhnev meeting, the Middle East and China) but he also said that Mr. Ohira particularly wished to discuss the question of Vietnamese refugees. I supported this and the proposal was welcomed by the representatives of all the other Summit countries who felt that their principals might wish to devote quite a bit of time to the matter.

I am mentioning this now because I have seen your record of the Prime Minister's talk with Sir Murray MacLehose on 14th June. Whether or not parts of the Press corps accompany Lord Carrington on his visit to Hong Kong after the Summit meeting, it is clear that all concerned want to discuss the problem of Vietnamese refugees in Tokyo: and even though the political lunch is not normally reflected in the communique there will be plenty of opportunity to brief the Press on the results of the discussion.

The FCO know about this and appropriate briefing will be provided for Tokyo.

JH

(John Hunt)

18th June 1979