

PRIORITY

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MY I.P.T. : SUMMIT.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT JOINT  
 PRESS CONFERENCE AT RAMBOUILLET THIS AFTERNOON:-

BEGINS

THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE SIX HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THIS  
 WEEKEND WAS A RECOGNITION OF OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
 RECOVERY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. IT WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE  
 IMPORTANCE OF THE POLICIES JOINTLY ADOPTED BY THE INDUSTRIALISED  
 COUNTRIES FOR THE WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH IS SO DEPENDENT ON THE LEVEL  
 OF WORLD TRADE, WE ARE DEEPLY AND CONTINUOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE  
 PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT, A CONCERN WHICH IS SHARED BY  
 ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONFERENCE, SINCE OUR UNEMPLOYED IN THE  
 SIX COUNTRIES NUMBER ABOUT TWELVE AND A HALF MILLION; THIS IS A  
 VAST AND TRAGIC WASTE OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

I GO AWAY HEARTENED, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL FEELING THAT  
 THE RECOVERY IS CLEARLY IMMINENT - I WAS ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED  
 BY WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY -  
 BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE RESOLVE ALL HERE SHOWED TO WORK TOGETHER  
 TO ACHIEVE EXPANSION AT A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH THE CONTROL OF  
 INFLATION. WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT NATIONS CANNOT SOLVE  
 THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN. THE SUCCESS OF OUR MEETING  
 WAS OUR AGREEMENT TO WORK TOGETHER AND THE UNDERSTANDING EACH  
 SHOWED FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS.

QUOTING WHAT YOU HAVE QUOTED, MR PRESIDENT, FROM THE DECLARATION  
 OF RAMBOUILLET TODAY "WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR PRESENT POLICIES  
 ARE COMPATIBLE AND COMPLEMENTARY AND THAT RECOVERY IS UNDER WAY.  
 NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE AND ADAPTABILITY  
 IN OUR POLICIES. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE RECOVERY TO FALTER.  
 WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER OUTBURST OF INFLATION." / I WAS



I WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM TO MY COLLEAGUES IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OUR ABSOLUTE DETERMINATION TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE ATTACK ON INFLATION WHICH WAS APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT IN AUGUST, AND I WAS ABLE TO TELL THEM OF THE SUCCESS OF THE POLICY SO FAR AND OF THE VIRTUALLY UNITED BACKING OF THE WHOLE BRITISH PEOPLE IN MAKING IT WORK.

IT IS NECESSARY TO GO ON REPEATING THAT JUST AS WORLD COST INFLATION ARISING FROM OIL AND OTHER PRICES HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE WORST DEPRESSION IN WORLD INDUSTRY AND TRADE SINCE PRE-WAR DAYS, SO EQUALLY NATIONAL DETERMINATION TO FIGHT INTERNAL INFLATION MUST NOW BE OUR MAIN GUARANTEE AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVEN WORSE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS FOR EACH OF US.

WE DID NOT MEET TO TAKE DECISIONS: NOR DID WE THINK THAT SO SHORT A MEETING WOULD CONSTITUTE A TURNING POINT IN THE WORLD ECONOMY. BUT THE FACT THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF SIX COUNTRIES WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR SO HIGH A PROPORTION - MUCH MORE THAN HALF - OF WORLD TRADE WERE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE PATH FORWARD OUT OF RECESSION MUST BE A SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE TO ALL.

ENDS

TOMKINS

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