

OPS

Subject copy:

Mr. Tony Abdo, July 80,
Ottawa Economic Summit
in July 81 -
Admin
Arrangements

July 80, Summit

47018/1
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.

Canadian High Commission



Haut Commissariat du Canada

CONFIDENTIAL

March 11, 1981

Dear Margaret,

You will know that I have given a great deal of thought to the kind of Summit we will want next July and have been particularly conscious of the desire expressed by you and some of our colleagues to have more time for informal sessions among ourselves. I wanted to give you a preliminary outline of the arrangements I have in mind which are intended to fulfill that objective.

I propose that Heads of State and Government and Ministers stay at the Château Montebello for the first two evenings and nights (Sunday, July 19 and Monday, July 20) and the first full day of the Summit (Monday). The Château is a unique and beautiful resort located 66 kilometers from Ottawa on a secluded stretch of the Ottawa River in a natural setting of forest, rivers and lakes.

The whole site will be closed off, enabling us to move about freely. The setting should provide a relaxed atmosphere for us to meet, in some cases for the first time. The format I have in mind is, I believe, conducive to the personal rapport and productive dialogue which we seek.

During the second day, Tuesday, July 21, we would meet in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings. The Joint Press Conference will conclude the Summit later on Tuesday.

I expect that at our dinner Sunday evening we will want to take stock of the serious challenges confronting our countries and to have a general discussion of the international situation including some of the underlying issues, whether East/West, North/South, or Macro-Economic. We will also want to have a preliminary discussion on how best to approach the conduct of the Summit, including the priorities for our work.

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

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At the opening session, on Monday morning, I suggest that at the outset the Heads of State and Government meet briefly alone to decide formally how best to organize our meetings and the work of our Ministers. We would then go into plenary session (that is, accompanied by two Ministers) and stay in plenary at all of the subsequent meetings. However, I suggest two exceptions. First, we could, as in Venice, have only our Foreign Ministers with us when we discuss political questions. Secondly, we could decide to go back into closed session at any time if we thought that would be useful. Of course, we would always have notetakers with us.

I understand that our personal representatives have been meeting to discuss preparations for our Summit and see no particular problem in the arrangements I have just outlined. Specific details are being provided to your officials and every effort will be made to respond to individual requirements. I am also attaching a brief outline of the programme.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

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PROGRAMME OUTLINE : 1981 SUMMIT

Sunday, July 19

- Delegations arrive in Ottawa. The principals and their immediate parties (approximately 15 in total) are transported via helicopter (twenty minutes) from the airport to the Château Montebello.
- (the remainder of the delegations and all media to be lodged in Ottawa).
- Separate working dinners for the Heads of State/Government and accompanying Ministers at Montebello.

Monday, July 20

- Morning session at which Heads of State/Government will meet initially among themselves for a short period followed by a session with one or two Ministers present.
- Luncheon arrangements as for Sunday dinner.
- Afternoon session with Ministers as required and with the possibility of a further limited session among Heads of State/Government late in the afternoon or any other times as necessary for the organization of our work.
- Dinner arrangements: joint or separate (to be decided).

Tuesday, July 21

- Delegations move by helicopter to Ottawa for a session in East Block of the Parliament Buildings, a state luncheon, a further session, as required, and a joint press conference.

Delegations depart from Ottawa Tuesday evening or Wednesday, July 22.