

OPS

CAB/WTE001/01

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T185A/82

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

010835Z OCT 82

FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON D.C.

Subject
ECON POL : WILLIAMSBURG
ECONOMIC SUMMIT

PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

DEAR RON

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28TH SEPTEMBER AND FOR YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 10TH TO 12TH JUNE NEXT YEAR.

2. AS IT HAPPENS, I AM AFRAID THAT THOSE DATES WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER POINT WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO PUT TO YOU. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM A VISIT TO JAPAN (AMONG OTHER PLACES). WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE I WAS ON THE POINT OF WRITING TO YOU MYSELF TO RAISE WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITY, WHICH I DISCUSSED WITH MR. SUZUKI, OF BRINGING THE DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S SUMMIT FORWARD FROM JUNE TO EARLIER IN THE YEAR. THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS CONSIDERABLY DETERIORATED SINCE WE MET AT VERSAILLES, AND I WONDER WHETHER WE CAN WAIT AS LONG AS JUNE BEFORE CONSIDERING TOGETHER HOW THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESPOND TO THE SITUATION AS IT IS NOW DEVELOPING. MR. SUZUKI WELCOMED THIS SUGGESTION, AND TOLD ME THAT, IF THE REST OF HIS COLLEAGUES AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL, HE WOULD SUPPORT IT.

3. AS GEORGE SHULTZ WILL HAVE TOLD YOU, THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT ECONOMIC SUMMIT CAME UP WHEN HE AND FRANCIS PYM MET OVER DINNER IN NEW YORK ON 29TH SEPTEMBER WITH THEIR FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS SOME SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT WE MIGHT USEFULLY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING SOMEWHAT EARLIER. THERE WOULD BE A RISK THAT THE MEDIA WOULD TRY TO BLOW THAT UP AS A CRISIS AND TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS ACCORDINGLY. I AM SURE THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS BY SENSIBLE BRIEFING: BUT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DO SO IF WE HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED A DATE IN JUNE. IF YOU COULD AVOID ANNOUNCING A DATE FOR THE TIME BEING, SO THAT THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLIER MEETING COULD BE CONSIDERED, THIS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

4. PERHAPS THE BEST WAY OF CARRYING THIS FORWARD WOULD BE FOR THERE TO BE AN EARLY MEETING OF OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLIER MEETING AND THE QUESTION WHEN, IF THERE WERE TO BE SUCH A MEETING, IT MIGHT BE HELD. I HAVE NO SETTLED VIEWS ON THAT: PERHAPS THE SECOND HALF OF MARCH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND AN EARLY MEETING OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO US IN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME. MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE READY TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING IN PARIS OR WASHINGTON: OR IF YOU THOUGHT THAT THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, I SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO INSTRUCT HIM TO HOST A MEETING HERE IN LONDON AS SOON AS THAT COULD BE ARRANGED.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, PERHAPS WE MIGHT SUSPEND ACTION ON THE INVITATION WHICH YOU HAVE JUST SO GENEROUSLY SENT US.

WITH WARMEST BEST WISHES.

YOURS EVER.

MARGARET.

NNNN

SENT AT 01/1040Z PJ

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