



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 May 1979

Dear Bryan,

Mr. Stone.
So far, so good.
22/5

TOKYO SUMMIT

As agreed this morning on the telephone, the Lord Privy Seal raised the question of security arrangements for the Prime Minister at Tokyo at his lunch with the Japanese Foreign Minister today. While expressing the Prime Minister's appreciation of arrangements in hand, the Lord Privy Seal explained that the Prime Minister would prefer that, as in this country, her personal security were treated on the same basis as that of other Prime Ministers, and that she should not have, as some reports had suggested, a special detachment of female bodyguards. This point was reinforced by officials with Mr Sonoda's Private Secretary, and the Lord Privy Seal is satisfied that the point has been well taken and appreciated. We would propose to follow this up immediately by instructing HM Embassy in Tokyo to discuss the matter with the appropriate Japanese authorities, making clear the Prime Minister's wishes in this matter.

I am copying this letter to Martin Vile.

Yours ever.
Stephen Gomersall.

S J Gomersall
Private Secretary
to the Lord Privy Seal

Bryan Cartledge Esq
No 10 Downing Street

TXW 408/306/1

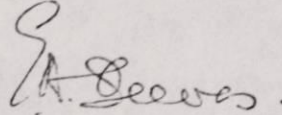
PS/Lord Privy Seal

ECONOMIC SUMMIT, TOKYO

1. Sir John Hunt telephoned this morning to speak about a report which appeared on British television, when the General Election results were announced, that when Mrs Thatcher attended the Tokyo Summit, 20 "karate ladies" would attend her. Sir John Hunt raised this with his Japanese colleague at last week's Washington Sherpas' Meeting; the latter told him that this report is in fact true. Sir John said that Mrs Thatcher will attend the Summit as Prime Minister and not as a woman per se and he was sure that she would not want these ladies; press reaction in particular would be unacceptable. He asked about action to be taken.
2. I said that on even minor Summit administrative arrangements the Japanese MFA have so far proved intractable and the police are reported to be even more so; a high-level approach is therefore necessary. Shortly afterwards I learnt that Sir Ian Gilmour is giving the Japanese Foreign Minister lunch tomorrow. Sir John Hunt spoke with Mr Stowe, who subsequently telephoned me to reiterate that the Prime Minister would not want karate ladies. It was agreed that Sir Ian Gilmour should be asked to raise the matter at tomorrow's lunch.
3. The Japanese police have received threats from various organisations that an effort will be made to disrupt the Tokyo Summit by various means; there is (as yet) no specific threat to the UK Delegation itself. The physical security arrangements for the safety of Ministers is always the responsibility of the host Government. The Japanese police will bring in 26,000 police to cope with what will clearly be very intensive security arrangements indeed. The Prime Minister would like to be treated in exactly the same manner as the other visiting Heads of Delegation; it is not the degree of protection that is in question but the particular means of carrying it out. If other Delegation leaders, for example are each being assigned 20 karate gentlemen, the Prime Minister would have no objection to this; but she does not wish to be singled out. She has not had in the past and does not have now, any female Special Branch officers.
4. On the assumption that this request is accepted, any subsequent press enquiries as to why the karate ladies will not appear should be played down as much as possible, both by the Japanese and ourselves.
5. I have consulted FRD, PUSD and Security Department; PCD is not the lead Department for physical security arrangements but in the

/interests

interests of speed it has been agreed that we should put this to you.



E A Deeves (Miss)
Conference and Visits Section
Protocol and Conference Department

21 May 1979

cc: PS/Secretary of State
PS/Permanent Under-Secretary
Financial Relations Department
Far Eastern Department
Permanent Under-Secretary's Department
Security Department

Mr K R Stowe, 10 Downing Street
PS/Sir John Hunt, Cabinet Office