

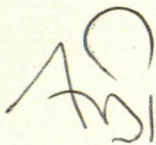
MR. HOWE

I am sorry that I have not responded before to your minute of 12 January about the Leeds Castle Conference this summer. I have made two or three abortive attempts to speak to you on the telephone.

Much though I would like to go, I think that, for tactical reasons, I had better not. My utility in my present job will depend to a great extent on my relationship with the FCO. One of the most neuralgic points at present in this relationship is that I will become a kind of alternative Foreign Secretary, speaking on foreign policy matters in public on behalf of the Government. I think that my attendance at such a high-powered conference, with shoals of Foreign Ministers present, would excite the most appalling neurosis across the road.

In the circumstances, my own feeling is that it would be better if an FCO Minister were to be invited to attend as happened last time.

Perhaps you could suggest this, if you agree, to Geoffrey Stewart-Smith. I need hardly say that what I have said above is very private.



A.D. PARSONS
19 January 1983

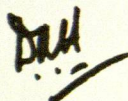
SIR ANTHONY PARSONS

Attached is a self-explanatory letter from Geoffrey Stewart-Smith Director of the Foreign Affairs Research Institute and former Conservative Member of Parliament.

I also attach background material about this year's Conference and a Souvenir Programme from last year's Conference.

You will see that it is a genuinely high-powered Conference and in its first two years had messages from the President and the Prime Minister.

If you would like to attend, I would be happy to write to Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, or perhaps you would like to write to him direct?



Derek Howe

12th January 1983



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7 January 1983

This Institute is organising the Third Annual World Balance of Power Conference which will be held at Leeds Castle in Kent from 20 - 24 July, and I enclose a copy of the proposals, the programme of the last conference and a paper which I wrote on it.

On behalf of my Chairman and Council, may I ask you to enquire if Sir Anthony Parsons would like to receive an invitation to attend the conference on behalf of the Prime Minister?

Some 90 Ministers, Ambassadors and heads of strategic studies institutes from 30 countries will be present, and the calibre of participants will be higher than last year.

Lord Home and the American Ambassador have already stated that they intend to be present in person, and I am expecting Dr. Luns to be there as well.

I leave for Washington as the guest of the American Ambassador in early February, and am hopeful that I will succeed in persuading Mr. William P. Clark, the National Security Adviser, to give the main speech.

Your advice and assistance in this matter would be deeply appreciated.

Geoffrey Stewart-Smith

Director