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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

cc Mr Whitmore ✓

ECONOMIC SUMMIT - MEDIA

You will recall the problems we ran into in Ottawa when the Prime Minister tried to fulfil an undertaking to Canadian TV, made well before her arrival, to give them an interview. Eventually the Canadian Government in an effort to block the Prime Minister's appearance on their TV during the conference secured the agreement of Heads of State and Government that their radio and tv interviews should come after the conference. Meanwhile, of course, other Ministers at the conference were getting up at unearthly hours to give interviews in the streets of Montebello to US channels, some of whom had sent the village priest away on holiday while they converted his presbytery into an operational HQ.

The French organisers of Versailles claim an understanding between Heads of State and Government similar to that formally concluded at Montebello - none before the end of the Summit.

I have no objection to this provided it is a watertight undertaking and provided:

- it is accepted that the agreement does not preclude Heads of State or Government from making broadcasts on other matters should the need arise; we must not exclude the possibility of the Prime Minister responding to other - eg domestic - situations;
- any agreement distinguishes between Heads of State and Government and other participating Ministers who, as I say, were very active in Canada; and
- any breach of the agreement by one Head of State or Government releases others.

No doubt you will take these points into account in your Sherpa discussions.

B. INGHAM

Econ Pol.

Ref: A07838

MR. INGHAM

c Mr. Whitmore *X* *h* *W*

Economic Summit - Media

Thank you for your minute of 17th March.

2. I will certainly take into account the points you make in our next Sherpa discussions which are to be on 23rd - 25th April.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Robert Armstrong

18th March 1982