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Prime Minister

To note.

Ref. A08356

MR. COLES

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been enough. The

MS

A.J.C. 7/5

whole summit has become a circus.
Versailles Economic Summit

MS

Thank you for your minute of 4th May.

2. Representatives of the French Presidency visited London today, to discuss the ideas likely to be contained in the report which the President of the French Republic is preparing for the Versailles Summit. I shall be reporting to you in due course on these conversations. First indications suggest that industrial technology is indeed likely to be an important element in the report, but that questions of research and development will also arise in it.

3. In the third paragraph of your minute, you said that the Prime Minister had asked why it was necessary for political representatives to meet on 14th May to prepare the political content of the Summit. This repeats a pattern established in the last two years. When we were coming up to the Venice Summit, it was felt that the Summit would have to take a position on Afghanistan; and when we were coming up to the Ottawa Summit it was felt that it would be necessary to take a position on Poland. This required some preliminary discussion among the countries concerned. The Personal Representatives are concerned primarily with the economic content of the Summit, and some of them are either not prepared or not mandated to discuss political matters (this is particularly true of the American and German Personal Representatives). Both in 1980 and 1981 it was therefore agreed that there should be a meeting of political Personal Representatives, basically political directors, to consider what purely political issues the Economic Summit might be likely to need to address and what position might be taken by the Heads of State or Government on those issues.

4. It is clear that at Versailles there is likely to be some political discussion at the dinners of Heads of State or Government on Friday 4th June and Saturday 5th June, and perhaps at the lunch on Saturday 5th June where Heads of State or Government will be joined by Foreign Ministers. The meeting on 14th May will

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seek to explore the subjects that may be raised at Versailles, and the sort of line that might be taken on them. The result of their discussion will be reported to Personal Representatives, who will also be meeting near Paris from 14th to 16th May.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Fall and Mr. Kerr.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

7th May, 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Thank you for your minute of 7 May, in paragraph 3 of which you answered the Prime Minister's question about the need for political representatives to meet on 14 May. The Prime Minister has commented:- "I think one previous meeting would have been enough. The whole Summit has become a circus".

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (FCO) and John Kerr (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

10 May, 1982

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