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From the Private Secretary

6 November 1986

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of Washington telegram number 2185 about the Conference on Private Sector Initiatives being organised by the United States in Paris on 24-26 November at which British participation is apparently disappointing.

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The Prime Minister would like to be informed rapidly about the arrangements for this meeting and the reasons why no senior Minister or top name in British industry seems able to attend. She has commented that, on the face of it, the conference seems something which we should support. She does not however recollect the matter being discussed with her in the margins of the Tokyo Economic Summit.

I should be grateful if you and other recipients of this letter could let me know how matters stand.

I am copying this letter to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Alex Allan (H M Treasury), Tim Walker (Department of Trade and Industry) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

C D POWELL

John Turner, Esq.,
Department of Employment.

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

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MR BRAITHWAITE

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PS / SEC OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT

PS / SIR R ARMSTRONGS, CABINET OFFICE

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*We must do
better than this.
if necessary I
shall have
to go*

RC

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US CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES
SUMMARY.

1. THE LOW LEVEL OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE US-ORGANISED CONFERENCE IN PARIS ON 24-26 NOVEMBER ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES CAUSES SURPRISE AND REGRET IN THE WHITE HOUSE. CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO DRUM UP SOME MORE SENIOR FIGURES? DETAIL.
2. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WHITE HOUSE THE AMERICANS ARE ORGANISING IN PARIS ON 24-26 NOVEMBER AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES. THE DIRECTOR OF PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES IN THE WHITE HOUSE CALLED ON ME YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO DRAW MY ATTENTION TO THE POOR BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE HOPE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH IMPROVING IT.
3. THE CONFERENCE IS DESCRIBED BY ITS INITIATORS AS A RESPONSE TO THE LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST, INCLUDING NOTABLY FROM THE CHIRAC GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE BUT ALSO FROM THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE MARGINS OF THE TOKYO ECONOMIC SUMMIT, IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE OVER THE PERIOD OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTING GREATER US CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND PERSONALLY, IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY, EG HELP WITH THE ARTS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRAINING, URBAN IMPROVEMENT, SOCIAL ACTION OF ALL KINDS. THIS IS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S HEART AND HE IS SAID TO BE TAKING A CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE, AND (WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND REGAN) WILL BRIEF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON 6 NOVEMBER. THREE MEMBERS OF THE US CABINET (EDUCATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES) WILL BE ATTENDING IN PARIS. PARTICIPANTS THERE WILL IN GENERAL BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF LARGE CORPORATIONS AND CABINET LEVEL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS FROM SEVEN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (US, FRANCE, UK, FRG, ITALY, BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND) WITH OBSERVER STATUS FOR SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN,

