



FROM THE AMBASSADOR

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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16 December 1986

C D Powell Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
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CDP 18/12

Dear Charles,

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

1. Thank you for your letter of 4 December with its cautionary tale about the organisation of this Conference - or lack of it. I take due note. One lives and learns.
2. Just for the record, the organisers did not tell me that the matter had been raised with the Prime Minister by President Reagan at Camp David since the only time I saw them was before the Prime Minister's visit. But no doubt they used this embellishment with their contacts in London.
3. Since the organisers were genuinely from within the White House and were not merely representatives of outside consultants, it seemed likely that there was some Presidential interest and the British participation looked distinctly thin in relation to those from other countries who were said to be committed to attend. We are, however, learning every day about the degree of free enterprise on the part of White House staff and we will take what is said from them with an even larger pinch of salt in future.
4. But I am sorry that a number of people including and particularly the Prime Minister went to considerable trouble over what clearly was not a very well organised or prestigious event.

Yours ever
Antony

Antony Acland

ECON POL: Direct investment overseas: Jan. 1984

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