



70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Permanent Secretary to the Management and Personnel Office*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A083/1593

7 June 1983

We discussed yesterday the venue for the Economic Summit 1984.

As you will know, the Prime Minister has agreed that we should give more thought to the possibility of sites outside London. She would like to aim at a simpler, more workmanlike approach than that of Versailles and Williamsburg.

We discussed all this with Antony Acland yesterday. We agreed that the 1984 Summit had to be held before the end of June. We thought that you should look again at a combination of Leeds Castle and Chevening; but at first sight this seemed likely to be untidy, since it would involve a lot of travelling from place to place; and it was doubtful whether there was sufficient accommodation of adequate standard in the vicinity. We agreed that you should look seriously at Edinburgh, where the Royal High School would provide facilities for plenary meetings and perhaps for restricted meetings. There would certainly be plenty of hotel space of a suitable standard. The Queen would be able to entertain Heads of State or Government at Holyrood House. But there could be problems of security, especially with the amount of movement around there might have to be.

We agreed that you should look at Harrogate. This has good facilities for a conference; but it seems doubtful whether The Queen would be able to entertain Heads of State or Government if the meeting was held at Harrogate.

Finally, we agreed that you should look again at Gleneagles. This at first sight seems to provide the possibility of mounting a Summit more like that held at Montebello in 1981, with all the participants under one roof in a place which could be cordoned off for security purposes, but close enough to have the press at Edinburgh (or perhaps Perth). It would not be too difficult for The Queen to entertain Heads of State or Government at Holyrood House, if the conference were at Gleneagles.

/We

L V Appleyard Esq

We agreed that you should now look into these possibilities as a matter of some urgency, undertaking a reconnaissance on the ground so as to discover as much as possible at this stage both about modalities and about cost.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Antony Acland.

**ROBERT ARMSTRONG**