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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 September 1983

*Don John*

*A. I.C. 16/9*

1984 Economic Summit

*p-a.*

In his minute of 14 September to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Armstrong proposed a line to take with Mr Allen Wallis when he visited London next week. The Foreign Secretary is content with the line proposed.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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Econ Pol,  
1984 Summit,  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

1984 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 14 September (A083/2595). Subject to the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, she is content with the line which you propose to take with Mr. Allen Wallis when he visits you on Monday, 19 September.

F. E. R. BUTLER

15 September 1983

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Ref.A083/2595

PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister

Subject to the views of  
the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor,  
are you content with the line which  
Sir R. Armstrong proposes to take with  
Mr. Wallis at this very preliminary  
stage? FERB

Yes  
the  
mta  
1984 Economic Summit

14.9.

Mr Allen Wallis, President Reagan's Personal Representative, is coming to see me on Monday 19 September to discuss "the way ahead" to the London Economic Summit which, as you know, will fall in the middle of the American electioneering year. I have been considering, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury, both what I should say to him and how we should brief you for your visits to Mr Trudeau and President Reagan.

2. First dates. We now have replies from everyone to our proposal of 8-10 June 1984. Only the French have difficulties. According to Monsieur Attali, President Mitterand thinks that to hold a Summit just three days before the elections to the European Parliament would unnecessarily complicate both events. Instead he proposes that the Summit be put back to the end of June, say to 25 and 26 June (the dates provisionally set for the June meeting of the European Council, for which he will be in the chair); he would be ready to bring forward the date of the European Council to 21 and 22 June. He may also have in mind that it would be preferable to hold the Summit after the European Council, so that he can come to the Summit mandated by the European Council. That would be a logical order of events, for which there are precedents; but this year the Summit came before the European Council, and I gather that The Queen might not be able to entertain the Heads of State or Government if the Summit were held on 25 and 26 June. Monsieur Attali does not entirely close the door to 8-10 June, and I think that we may have to go back to the French, particularly now that everyone else is content with what we propose. But I will first discuss this with Allen Wallis, to see how President Reagan might react to a later date: if he is running for President, I suppose he is likely to want to have the Summit earlier rather than later.



3. On style and format, I propose to tell Mr Wallis that it will be your aim to build on the Williamsburg precedent (it will be tactful to express it that way) of a simpler, more informal and businesslike meeting than had been the trend of preceding meetings in this series. While it is too soon to begin to try to foresee in any detail the content of the discussions in London, I would confirm that it is our general intention that the London meeting should build on the Williamsburg Declaration on Economic Recovery and its Annex on strengthening economic co-operation for growth and stability. The theme of "consolidating Williamsburg" should appeal to the United States Government, with the President's electoral interests in mind. It ought also to suit us: so far as it is now possible to foresee what may be appropriate next June, a message of steady and sustained progress in strengthening economic co-operation seems likely to be both attainable and timely (though a major upset in international debt management could drastically change the picture). Next June may also be a timely moment to make another determined international effort to reverse the slide to protectionism.

4. Finally, I propose to sketch out for Mr Wallis how we foresee our preparations going. I envisage a meeting of Personal Representatives only in December to take stock of Williamsburg and have an initial exchange on the timetable of preparations for London. This could be followed by two further meetings, one in late March/early April and a final one in late May. I have some preliminary ideas on the documentation that we are likely to need which I will try out on Mr Wallis: we might well, I think, try to aim at producing a "thematic paper" for Personal Representatives, discussion of which would identify the issues to be covered in the discussion at London and in the final declaration.

5. If you, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to whom I am sending copies of this minute agree, I shall speak in this sense to Mr Allen Wallis.



I shall then be able to take into account whatever he has to say in the brief which I shall be submitting for your discussion of this subject with Mr Reagan and Mr Trudeau at the end of the month.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 September 1983

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