



FIVE

607

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: PRIME MINISTER'S SECOND DINNER

Thank you for your minute of 3 February (A084/394).

The Prime Minister agrees that her dinner on Friday, 8 June should be held in the National Portrait Gallery and that you should proceed with the arrangements.

A. J. COLES

7 February, 1984

607



Prime Dinner.

Open to hold this dinner in the National Portrait Gallery?

Yes not

A. J. C. $\frac{6.}{2}$

Ref. A084/394

MR COLES o/r

London Economic Summit:
Prime Minister's Second Dinner

The Prime Minister decided that President Mitterrand would probably find the vibrations in Apsley House distasteful, and that we must therefore look elsewhere for the venue of her dinner for Heads of State or Government on the evening of Friday 8 June. She invited us to consider other possible sites, including the National Gallery and the Royal Society.

--- 2. I attach the results of our inquiries. You will see that the two places which come best out of the survey are the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Society of Arts.

3. On the top floor of the National Gallery there is a perfect place for a small dinner in the Elizabethan Gallery surrounded by sparkling red and gold Elizabethan portraits. There is also a good area for a preliminary drink halfway up, on a landing with a variety of modern portraits of the Royal Family. There would be an opportunity after dinner for the Prime Minister's guests to visit the most attractive newly designed and recently opened Gallery of 20th Century personalities. The authorities at the National Portrait Gallery would be very co-operative. Cloakroom and lift facilities are reasonable, and everything is in good repair. The Government Hospitality Fund can provide a good meal there.

4. The Royal Society of Arts is in John Adam Street, a narrow street parallel with and just below the Strand. It is an Adam building with a fine set of Adam rooms on the first floor in a good state of decoration. The rooms are not large but suitable for an intimate dinner party and catering, cloakrooms etc would all be satisfactory. Guests could visit the lecture room, with an impressive mural by James Barry all round the walls. There is an attractive library and the activities of the Institution in the field of design and commerce, as well as the arts, are of interest.



5. Either of these places would be good; I think that the National Portrait Gallery would be even better than the Royal Society of Arts. An additional point in favour of the National Portrait Gallery is that, with the exception of the United States, which started late and has a poor collection, we believe that none of the Summit participants has his own national portrait gallery. We should thus be showing the Prime Minister's guests something which they could not match at home.

6. I hope that the Prime Minister will agree that we should proceed with arrangements to hold her second dinner on Friday 8 June in the National Portrait Gallery.

BA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

3 February 1984

	Prestigious Institution	Interest for Guests	Dining-room	Place for drinks	State of Decoration	Catering Possible	Cloakrooms etc	Attitude of authorities	Links with guests
Royal Society	National repute	Not much to see	Poor. Library better, but impossible	Reasonable but gloomy	Poor	Yes, though will want to do it themselves	Reasonable	Not enthusiastic	Must be
National Gallery	National repute	Good	Council Room poor. No features unless pictures	None except main hall	Good	Difficult (kitchens far)	Reasonable	Reluctant. No smoking. Would not rearrange pictures	Plenty
Royal Academy	National repute	Good	Council Room ordinary and somewhat depressing	Difficult. Suitable rooms will be full of packing cases	Poor	Yes, though noisily near dining-room	Reasonable	Helpful	Should be
National Portrait Gallery	Well-known (and not often duplicated)	Good. Plenty to see	Elizabethan Gallery is superb	Good. Landing area with Royal portraits	Very good	Reasonable. GHF can cope	Reasonable	Very helpful	Indirect (Special exhibition could be arranged)
Chatham House	Well-known	Not much to see	Reasonable room, though not impressive	Reasonable drawing-room	Poor	Good. GHF could do it	Not checked	Helpful	Yes
Royal Society of Arts	Less known but good pedigree	Good. Other rooms to see	Delightful small Adam room	Attractive small Adam room	Very good	Good. GHF could do it	Good	Very helpful	Yes, at least with US, France
Institute of Directors	Reasonable	Not much to see	Secretary's Office. Reasonable	Reasonable room	Good for dining-room, poor for rest	Probably adequate but tied to own catering	Not checked	Helpful	No. Too much of Trafalgar and Waterloo