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PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

29 February 1984

Timothy Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister.

Content will design?

AR 1/3

Dear Timothy,

Yes MS

The Post Office has recently agreed to issue a commemorative stamp to mark the London Economic Summit in June.

2 A design has now been selected by the Stamp Advisory Committee, and in view of her close interest I am forwarding the artwork so that the Prime Minister can see the proposal before it is submitted to the Palace for Royal Approval.

.... 3 The enclosed artwork is a presentation visual produced within a particularly tight schedule. The final artwork from which the stamp will be reproduced will in fact place more emphasis on the national flags displayed at the front of Lancaster House. The Canadian flag has still to be included in the stamp and the German flag will be made clearer. If necessary, artistic licence will be used to increase the area of flags in proportion to the building.

4 The Post Office have confirmed that the value of the stamp they intend to use is at the rate for the Far East price zone, which includes Japan, so achieving more publicity than would have been the case with a high price commemorative. The Prime Minister may also wish to know that a specially designed First Day Envelope will be produced and that there will be two handstamps for franking, one as is customary at the Philatelic Bureau, and the other at London SW District, the postal area in which Lancaster House is located. It is expected that the symbol designed for the Conference will be incorporated in the latter handstamp.

5 The timescales to which the Post Office are working are very tight, and if the planned issue date of Tuesday, 5 June is to be met then Royal Approval is needed by 27 March at the latest.

* Returned to DTI S/B



6 As you will appreciate the approval of stamp designs follows a longstanding procedure agreed when the Post office became an independent Corporation. In essence this agreement limits the Government's role to the consideration of the political acceptability of the proposal, there being no remit for detailed comment on the design treatment. Against this background I should be grateful for an early indication of the Prime Minister's view of the design selected by the Post Office so that it may be submitted to the Palace in the normal way.

Yours ever,
Andrew Lansley

ANDREW LANSLEY
Private Secretary

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