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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A084/1093

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

London Economic Summit: German Request for Additional Minister

You will remember that, in the interests of the smooth running of the Summit and the need to avoid discrimination between participants and general embarrassment, we have been trying to fend off the German request that Count Lambsdorff should attend Summit meetings and meals as well as Dr Stoltenberg. There is no problem in relation to plenary meetings: the Germans accept that the Federal Chancellor will be accompanied by Herr Genscher and Herr Stoltenberg. But Count Lambsdorff can be expected to press to attend meetings and meals of Finance Ministers. Herr Genscher made an approach to you about this recently in Brussels.

2. We have now, as you know, just had another meeting of Personal Representatives and their assistants at Leeds Castle. The Japanese Personal Representative made it very clear to me that they could keep their MITI Minister away only if Count Lambsdorff did not come to London. When I raised the matter with Herr Tietmeyer, the German Personal Representative, he took my point about the embarrassment and inconvenience, and the dubious precedent at Williamsburg. He said, however, that this was a problem of great political significance and delicacy in Germany, because of Count Lambsdorff's personal position, and it could be resolved only at Ministerial level. I urged Herr Tietmeyer to report our views to the Federal Chancellor, but he said it would also be important that you should speak to Herr Genscher.

3. I very much hope that you will be able to speak to Herr Genscher accordingly, and to hold the line against Count Lambsdorff attending meetings or meals of Finance Ministers, preferably in such a way that the Germans will agree to drop the matter. If we cannot hold the line, we shall find ourselves with an extra Japanese Minister as well as Count Lambsdorff. As you know, this view is shared by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. To reinforce it, Mr Geoffrey Littler gave me over the weekend a copy of a memorandum from the United States Treasury Secretary dated June 1983 after the Williamsburg meeting (copy attached), which makes the strongest recommendation that the Germans should be told that they can have only one Minister at meetings and meals of Finance Ministers during the Summit.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Robert Armstrong

9 April 1984



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON 20220

June 2, 1983

*Note for
1st Sherpa
meeting, plenary
July 83
BRK*

MEMORANDUM FOR BERYL SPRINKEL

SUBJECT: Economic Summit 1984

As you know, at the recently concluded 1983 Economic Summit at Williamsburg, there was an embarrassing episode involving the insistence by Germany that they should have two financial representatives at the Summit. Their claim was that they have "always" had two representatives at the Summit, the Finance Minister and Otto Lambsdorff. This year the Japanese, apparently following the German's lead, brought two ministers for the Finance Ministers' meeting; one for finance, the other for trade.

*Germany
did in
4/11/84
and*

Following a decision made at the White House prior to going to Williamsburg, I insisted only one representative could attend each meeting. However, Lambsdorff simply walked into the meeting following Finance Minister Stoltenberg. This led to a confrontation between Lambsdorff, Stoltenberg and me -- including some frank language. In an effort to prevent a last minute breakdown of the entire meeting, I finally asked the other Ministers if they would allow Germany to have two representatives. They agreed. An invitation was also extended to the Japanese, who asked if they too could have two ministers. It was quite apparent that the Japanese thought this might be the outcome because their other Minister was readily available. Whether or not there was a concerted effort on the part of both nations, I do not know.

Prior to going to the U.K. for the 1984 meeting, this matter should be settled. If they continue to want two people, there must be a firm agreement that only one can be present at each meeting or meal, whether it is a Plenary Session, or meeting of Finance Ministers. I do not believe just two nations should be favored. I hope you will make this memo available for next year's Personal Representative, or Sherpa, so that the problem can be made absolutely clear early on, or else the U.S. Treasury Secretary will have to lodge a very strong protest at the start of next year's meeting of Finance Ministers.

DTR

Donald T. Regan