

cc MASTER  
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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Mr. Coles

SERIAL No. T77/86

DD 111040Z  
BONN FROM LONDON  
CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL 0045  
BT

AD 14/5

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE FEDERAL GERMAN CHANCELLOR

WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AT CHEQUERS THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HEADS OF DELEGATION TO THE LONDON SUMMIT IN JUNE. WE AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT PLUS TWO MINISTERS AT PLENARY MEETINGS AND MEALS, BUT YOU SUGGESTED THAT FOR THE SEPARATE MEALS AND MEETINGS OF FINANCE MINISTERS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADD ANOTHER CHAIR TO THE TABLE TO PROVIDE FOR ANOTHER GERMAN MINISTER.

THE TROUBLE IS, I AM AFRAID, THAT A NUMBER OF OUR COLLEAGUES CONSIDER THAT EVERYTHING DONE AT SUMMITS SHOULD BE ON A BASIS OF PARITY BETWEEN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS.

THE JAPANESE HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR TO US THAT IF YOU DECIDE TO BRING MORE THAN TWO MINISTERS WITH YOU TO LONDON THEIR MITI MINISTER WILL ALSO COME. WE WOULD BE ON WEAK GROUND IN LIMITING ANY ADDITIONS TO YOU AND THE JAPANESE BECAUSE OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DIVIDED ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE ARE MANY MINISTERS, MINISTERS OF STATE AND SENIOR OFFICIALS (THE DIVIDING LINE IS SOMETIMES THIN) WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN SUMMIT FUNCTIONS.

IF YOU FEEL THAT COUNT LAMBSDORFF SHOULD COME TO LONDON IN JUNE (AND WE SHOULD OF COURSE BE DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM) AS WELL AS DR STOLTENBERG, I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD ALTERNATE AT NIGEL LAWSON'S FIRST TWO WORKING MEALS (DINNER ON THURSDAY 7 JUNE AND LUNCH ON FRIDAY 8 JUNE). NIGEL WILL TRY TO TAILOR THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ACCORDINGLY. THE JAPANESE, AT LEAST, WOULD THEN FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN. THE THIRD MEAL, NIGEL'S DINNER ON THE SECOND NIGHT, 8 JUNE, WILL BE AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND. HE AND THE GOVERNOR INTEND TO INVITE TWO REPRESENTATIVES PER DELEGATION ON THIS OCCASION - NORMALLY THE FINANCE MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL DEALING WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS. IF YOU WISHED BOTH GERMAN MINISTERS TO ATTEND, INSTEAD OF ONE MINISTER AND ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL, THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE.

AS FAR AS THE FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING PLANNED FOR THE MORNING OF 8 JUNE IS CONCERNED AT LANCASTER HOUSE, I AM AFRAID THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PROVISION (SEATS, HEADPHONES ETC) FOR ONLY ONE PLACE PER DELEGATION AT THE TABLE, AND ONE SEAT FOR A SENIOR ADVISER/NOTETAKER AT THE SIDE OF THE ROOM. IT IS CLEARLY FOR YOU TO DECIDE BY WHOM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

I HOPE THAT WHAT I AM PROPOSING WILL COMMEND ITSELF TO YOU AS A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. IF SO, I SHOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THE JAPANESE AND OTHERS WILL NEED TO BE TOLD

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BONN FROM LONDON  
CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL 0045  
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE  
FEDERAL GERMAN CHANCELLOR

WE REGRET THAT THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE TRANSMISSION OF OUR (GOVT. 0045 111040Z). THAT TELEGRAM WAS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR AND WAS NOT (NOT) A DRAFT. THE FULL TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR HERR CHANCELLOR,  
WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AT CHEQUERS THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HEADS OF DELEGATION TO THE LONDON SUMMIT IN JUNE. WE AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT PLUS TWO MINISTERS AT PLENARY MEETINGS AND MEALS, BUT YOU SUGGESTED THAT FOR THE SEPARATE MEALS AND MEETINGS OF FINANCE MINISTERS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADD ANOTHER CHAIR TO THE TABLE TO PROVIDE FOR ANOTHER GERMAN MINISTER.

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YOURS SINCERELY,  
MARGARET THATCHER  
BT

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