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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 May 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN

Thank you for your letter of 16 May.

I agree that briefing should be prepared on the lines you propose. But you should know that the Prime Minister has already indicated that she does not regard her meeting with President Reagan as a Summit occasion, but rather an opportunity to cover major issues of mutual concern. I think therefore that the briefing on the Summit which you provide for her meeting with the President could be relatively concise.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

A & COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc P.C.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 May 1984

John Johnson

London Economic Summit: Prime Minister's Meeting
with President Reagan

As you know, arrangements for briefing for the Prime Minister's meetings with President Reagan and Mr Nakasone are being handled separately from the briefing exercise for the Summit which is being coordinated by the Cabinet Office. In your letter of 14 May you agreed the proposals in Peter Ricketts' letter of 11 May on the handling of the meeting with Mr Nakasone. It would be helpful to have your views on the topics to be covered in the meeting with President Reagan so that the preparation of the necessary briefs can similarly be put in hand.

This will be the Prime Minister's first meeting with the President since her visit to Washington last September. It will take place against the background of the US Presidential elections and will be an important and timely opportunity to cover not only Summit-related subjects but also wider political issues. The final agenda for the Prime Minister's tete-a-tete and working dinner on 5 June will depend to some extent on developments between now and then. The Foreign Secretary will be having a working dinner with Mr Shultz in Washington on 28 May, the eve of the NATO Ministerial Meeting. This may give us an indication of what is uppermost in President Reagan's mind, and will also eliminate the need for any kind of tour d'horizon when he calls on the Prime Minister a week later.

The Prime Minister may therefore like to concentrate on a short list of points during her meeting with the President:

- (a) the London Economic Summit, including the agenda on both the economic and political sides, and the organisation of the meeting;
- (b) East/West relations, including defence and arms control questions: the signs at the moment are that the truculent Soviet attitude is likely to continue, causing continued friction between Washington and Moscow and possibly a public opinion problem in the West, as people generally become anxious about the direction in which matters are moving;

/(c)



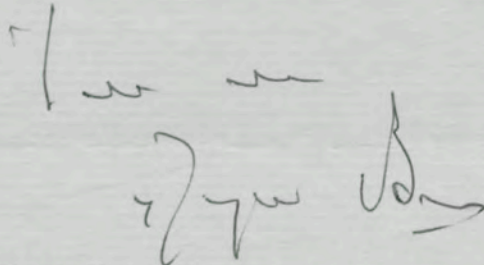
- (c) China, on which the President may like to give his impressions of his recent visit.
- (d) Northern Ireland, since the President will just have been in the Republic of Ireland and will no doubt have said something in public about the North.

Other international issues which the Prime Minister may like to mention are Southern Africa, in view of Mr Botha's visit on 2 June; and the Gulf War, if the situation there continues to deteriorate.

Among non-Summit economic issues affecting our bilateral relations, it might be appropriate for us to provide briefs on EC/US relations, Extraterritoriality, Unitary Taxation and Civil Aviation in case these are raised.

If you agree we shall now prepare such further briefing as is required to supplement the main Summit briefs, consulting other Whitehall Departments as appropriate. We would aim to have these ready by the deadline of 1 June mentioned in Robin Butler's minute of 1 May to Sir R Armstrong.

Copies of this letter go to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office), and to Private Secretaries at the Department of Trade and Industry, the Treasury, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Office, the Department of Transport, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Energy.


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Private Secretary

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