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Ref. A084/1531

MR COLES

London Economic Summit: Statement on Democratic Values

I attach a revised version of the "London Charter", taking account of amendments proposed in discussion at the weekend meeting of Personal Representatives.

2. The main changes are:

- in paragraph 2, a specific reference to human rights;
- in paragraph 4, the inclusion of references to certain social objectives;
- in paragraph 5, a sentence about the moral obligations of prosperity (reflecting American suggestions);
- in paragraph 6, a recasting of the second sentence to reflect the position both of those participants who are NATO allies and of those who have purely national defence obligations.

3. The earlier draft contained in paragraph 6 a sentence which said:

"We reaffirm the statement made at Williamsburg in May 1984 on defence and disarmament".

The French Personal Representative objected to any reference to this statement, and I have excluded it from the revised draft. If it was felt to be important to retain some reference to the statement, I judge that the French Representative would accept a reference which did not seek to describe the contents of the statement: some such sentence as:

"We reaffirm the statement made at Williamsburg in May 1983".

4. I am sending copies of this minute and of the revised draft "London Charter" to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*R*  
Approved by  
ROBERT ARMSTRONG

*and signed in his absence*

22 May 1984

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STATEMENT ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES

REVISED DRAFT

THE LONDON CHARTER

We, the Heads of State and Government of Seven major industrial countries with the President of the Commission of the European Communities, assembled in London for the Tenth Economic Summit meeting, affirm our commitment to the values which sustain and bring together our societies.

2. We believe in a rule of law which respects and protects without fear or favour the human and civil rights and liberties of every citizen, and provides the setting in which the human spirit can develop in freedom and diversity.

3. We believe in a system of democracy which ensures genuine choice in elections freely held, free expression of opinion with full respect for dissent, and capacity to respond and adapt to change in all its aspects.

4. We believe in economic systems which provide the best possible conditions for enterprise to promote sustained economic growth, social progress, full employment and education in a healthy environment and in which the fruits of innovation, imagination and scientific discovery can best be applied to the benefit of all.

*cc. choice  
sound finance  
wider standards  
of living*

5. We believe in close partnership with each other in the conviction that this will reinforce political and economic stability in the world as a whole. We look for co-operation with all countries on the basis of respect for their independence and territorial integrity, regardless of differences between political, economic and social systems. We acknowledge the moral responsibilities that go with economic success, and reaffirm our keen concern about the problems of hunger and poverty in the world and our determination to help those who most need it.

6. We believe in the overriding need for peace between the peoples of the world. Each of us rejects the use of force as a means of settling disputes: each of us will maintain only the military strength necessary to deter aggression and to meet our national and international obligations for effective defence. Our dedication to the rule of law, democracy and individual freedom is a guarantee of our commitment to closer and more open international relationships.

7. Strong in these beliefs, our countries are endowed with unrivalled diversity and creative vigour. With such a heritage we look forward to the future with confidence.