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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

London Economic Summit: Draft Declaration on
Democratic Values

Thank you for your minute of 5 June.

The Prime Minister read this before her talks with President Reagan this evening but did not have an opportunity to raise the question of how the American proposals for amendments to the Declaration should be handled.

However, I explained in general terms to Mr. Baker, Mr. McFarlane and Mr. Sommer that the Prime Minister's objective was that the Summit should issue early in its proceedings a simple Declaration on Democratic Values on the lines of the British text. I added that while we saw little difficulty in the substance of the proposed US additions, we thought that they would cause difficulties with other participants, especially the French, and would also sit uneasily with our own text. I therefore believed (and I had discussed this point earlier with the Prime Minister) that the Prime Minister would prefer to incorporate the substance of the American additions in a report to the press on the evening of the first day of the Conference about the discussion of international political issues.

My impression is that the US delegation will be reasonable receptive to these arguments. You may therefore wish to pursue them in the drafting session on the evening of Thursday 7 June.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr. Peretz (HM Treasury).

A. J. Wals.

5 June 1984

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