

Pl. bring forward  
again in 10 James  
C.D.P. 3/2

PRIME MINISTER

YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY

I am not sure whether Oliver Wright mentioned to you when you were in Washington that he is taking soundings to see whether you might address a joint session of both Houses of Congress during your visit in February. It is far from certain that this can be arranged though apparently George Bush's first reaction was encouraging. It would need a very good speech with not a lot of time to prepare it. I am sure it would make enormous impact if it can be arranged. Agree that Oliver Wright should continue to pursue this idea?

Joint Press  
Loshard

*One T.V. review will reach a much wider audience*  
We shall also need to consider the subject for your speech in Texas. Oliver Wright's idea was that it should deal with the international economic situation. The attached letter from the Treasury suggests that this may not be a good idea and puts two alternative options:

- (a) to deal only passingly with international economic questions in the course of a general review of world developments;
- (b) to make a speech looking specifically at micro-economic issues, and in particular deal with the relative ability of the UK and US economies to create jobs, the role of the public sector, the climate for investment and the free market ethos.

The second option seems to me to be a much better one. Agree to commission work on it?

*We shall need to think this through a little further*

Another question which is already active is who should accompany you to Washington, and in particular for the "seminar" on arms control. Both the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary have already said that they would like to. You will wish to consider this. In some ways it is preferable to have a single spokesman for our side if only because it

puts more pressure on the Americans to come up with an agreed view, even if the President delegates quite a lot of the talking to Shultz or Weinberger. This worked well at your meeting in December. On the other hand you may prefer in a longer session to have some support - though we shall have to be careful to limit numbers as strictly as possible if the discussion is to be useful. Agree that participants on our side should be the Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, the Ambassador and a Private Secretary?

*E.D.P.*

*Will consider  
me*

2 January 1985