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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 November 1986

I think it goes into the next draft

Agree that our new Ambassador should convey the message to Mr. Nakasone?

Message from Mr Nakasone

CDP 11/xi

Sir Sydney Giffard, who has just returned to London on retirement after being our Ambassador in Tokyo, made farewell calls on the Prime Minister, Mr Nakasone, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Kuranari, before he left Tokyo at the end of October.

Mr Nakasone made a point of asking that his personal regards be passed to the Prime Minister. He said that Mrs Thatcher had made a great contribution to the success of the Tokyo Economic Summit. He was very keen that they should continue to work together, as he attached the highest value to the Prime Minister's contribution in international affairs generally. He referred to Mrs Thatcher's presence at the recent opening of the Nissan Plant in Washington, and said that this had been very well received in Japanese industrial circles. It meant that Japanese investment was really welcome in Britain. He then referred to the Bosphorus Bridge and said that, if other problems like that arose, he would hope to be able to settle them with the Prime Minister. All problems between the two countries were capable of settlement.

Sir John Whitehead, the new Ambassador, takes up his appointment at Tokyo on 11 November. He is likely to have an early opportunity to call on Mr Nakasone and it would be natural, and in our view useful, if he could pass on a message from Mrs Thatcher in the same informal, oral form used by the Japanese Prime Minister. I attach a draft for your approval. Mr Channon will be visiting Japan from 22-28 November. It would be useful to reinforce what he will have to say on whisky and on other trade issues, when he sees Mr Nakasone, as we hope he will.

Gans on

R. N. Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN TO MR NAKASONE BY
SIR JOHN WHITEHEAD

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your kind message conveyed by Sir Sydney Giffard. Mrs Thatcher quite agrees that our two countries should work together harmoniously on all aspects of our relations. ~~[Sir Geoffrey Howe was pleased with his talks with Mr Kuranari on political cooperation at New York.]~~

The Prime Minister was happy to attend the Nissan opening and hopes that you will encourage more investment in Britain, the transfer of technology and joint ventures. You mentioned to Sir Sydney that all our problems should be capable of settlement. The Prime Minister asked me in this context to underline the importance of Mr Channon's visit ~~in our trading relationship [and two issues in particular: the need for progress over alcoholic drinks and the encouragement we should find in a major order for aircraft.]~~ She looks forward to meeting you ~~(again and discussing all these matters further)~~ at the Economic Summit in Venice.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 November 1986

MESSAGE FROM MR. NAKASONE

Thank you for your letter of 11 November proposing that Sir John Whitehead should reply orally to Mr. Nakasone's message to the Prime Minister, transmitted through Sir Sydney Giffard during his farewell call. The Prime Minister is content with this but would like the message to be rather less detailed. I enclose an amended version.

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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The Prime Minister was happy to attend the Nissan opening and hopes that you will encourage more investment in Britain, the transfer of technology and joint ventures. You mentioned to Sir Sydney that all our problems should be capable of settlement. The Prime Minister asked me in this context to underline the importance of Mr. Channon's visit which will be an opportunity to discuss major issues in our trade relations. She looks forward to meeting you at the Economic Summit in Venice.

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