

Mr Alexander

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Ottawa Summit: Meeting of Personal Representatives

I should report briefly on two telephone conversations which Sir Robert Armstrong had on 12 February with Mr Gotlieb and Herr Schulmann.

Mr Gotlieb telephoned to consult Sir Robert about his wish to be accompanied throughout next week's meetings and discussions by his Deputy as Personal Representative, Mr Larry Smith. It was agreed after some discussion that Mr Smith would attend the plenary meetings and the meetings of Personal Representatives but not the meals among the Personal Representatives alone.

This led on to a discussion of indications which Mr Gotlieb had received from Mr Rashish that the latter not only wished to be accompanied next week by 4 officials from Washington but also that he thought that the agenda should be changed to reduce the attention given to the Aid Study. It was agreed that Mr Gotlieb should go back to Mr Rashish to indicate that if he wished to make any general points about reorientating the focus of the Summit, this should be done over dinner on 17 February. The Aid Study discussions would then continue as planned. It was conceivable that the discussions on the afternoon of 18 February, which had originally been intended to be between Personal Representatives alone, could go wider in which case other officials might be drawn in to allow the United States team to describe their own views on the macro-economic points to which they expected Heads of State and Government to pay particular attention at the Summit. There might be some advantage in this, if it happened, since it could help to tease out possible difficulties and differences of view (particularly between the Americans and Germans) in time for action to be taken to deal with them over the coming months.

Mr Gotlieb thought that Personal Representatives would probably have to conclude at next week's meeting that at their next meeting they should be accompanied by their economic experts and political experts to discuss the preparation of the Summit in these two areas. Sir Robert Armstrong agreed

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with this. It would follow directly from the arrangements to prepare for last year's Venice Summit. It was consistent with the principle that Personal Representatives should be accompanied by only 2 other senior officials. It would also be especially important for consultation over the Summit's political content since only a few of the Personal Representatives were in a position to talk about political questions. Sir Robert Armstrong suggested that it might prove in the end most convenient to tackle the political preparations for Ottawa like the political preparations for Venice, by means of special meetings of political representatives.

In a subsequent conversation with Herr Schulmann, the questions of possible Schultze-type study of macro-economic questions or alternatively a further paper on recycling like that of the Dini Group, were raised. Herr Schulmann said that he was opposed to the idea of a further paper on recycling alone. He thought that recycling questions should be dealt with in a wider and mainly macro-economic paper. As for the possible authorship of the macro-economic paper, Schulmann considered it inappropriate to assume that this might fall to Weidenbaum. This implied that the Chairman of the OECD Economic Committee had a lien on the job, which was not the case. Sir Robert Armstrong said that he thought that Douglas Wass would be ready to undertake it, if that was the general will; or the German representative on the Economic Committee might be asked.

Copies of this letter go to Jonathan Taylor and Joseph Halligan (Treasury), Jonathan Phillips (Trade), Chris Wright (Energy) and Vi Read (ODA).

D. J. WRIGHT

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Private Secretary