

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.185A/82

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

010835Z OCT 82

FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON  
TO WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON D.C.

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PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

DEAR RON

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28TH SEPTEMBER AND FOR YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 10TH TO 12TH JUNE NEXT YEAR.

2. AS IT HAPPENS, I AM AFRAID THAT THOSE DATES WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER POINT WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO PUT TO YOU. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM A VISIT TO JAPAN (AMONG OTHER PLACES). WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE I WAS ON THE POINT OF WRITING TO YOU MYSELF TO RAISE WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITY, WHICH I DISCUSSED WITH MR. SUZUKI, OF BRINGING THE DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S SUMMIT FORWARD FROM JUNE TO EARLIER IN THE YEAR. THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS CONSIDERABLY DETERIORATED SINCE WE MET AT VERSAILLES, AND I WONDER WHETHER WE CAN WAIT AS LONG AS JUNE BEFORE CONSIDERING TOGETHER HOW THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESPOND TO THE SITUATION AS IT IS NOW DEVELOPING. MR. SUZUKI WELCOMED THIS SUGGESTION, AND TOLD ME THAT, IF THE REST OF HIS COLLEAGUES AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL, HE WOULD SUPPORT IT.

3. AS GEORGE SHULTZ WILL HAVE TOLD YOU, THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT ECONOMIC SUMMIT CAME UP WHEN HE AND FRANCIS PYM MET OVER DINNER IN NEW YORK ON 29TH SEPTEMBER WITH THEIR FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS SOME SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT WE MIGHT USEFULLY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING SOMEWHAT EARLIER. THERE WOULD BE A RISK THAT THE MEDIA WOULD TRY TO BLOW THAT UP AS A CRISIS AND TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS ACCORDINGLY. I AM SURE THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS BY SENSIBLE BRIEFING: BUT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DO SO IF WE HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED A DATE IN JUNE. IF YOU COULD AVOID ANNOUNCING A DATE FOR THE TIME BEING, SO THAT THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLIER MEETING COULD BE CONSIDERED, THIS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

4. PERHAPS THE BEST WAY OF CARRYING THIS FORWARD WOULD BE FOR THERE TO BE AN EARLY MEETING OF OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLIER MEETING AND THE QUESTION WHEN, IF THERE WERE TO BE SUCH A MEETING, IT MIGHT BE HELD. I HAVE NO SETTLED VIEWS ON THAT: PERHAPS THE SECOND HALF OF MARCH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND AN EARLY MEETING OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO US IN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME. MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE READY TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING IN PARIS OR WASHINGTON: OR IF YOU THOUGHT THAT THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, I SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO INSTRUCT HIM TO HOST A MEETING HERE IN LONDON AS SOON AS THAT COULD BE ARRANGED.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, PERHAPS WE MIGHT SUSPEND ACTION ON THE INVITATION WHICH YOU HAVE JUST SO GENEROUSLY SENT US.

WITH WARMEST BEST WISHES.

YOURS EVER.

MARGARET.

SUBJECT



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Re B  
Pm Tans

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Following your minute of 29 September, we discussed the proposed message to President Reagan in the light of the discussion between the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and his colleagues in New York (New York telegram nos. 1500 and 1501).

You subsequently submitted a revised draft message to President Reagan. This was approved by the Prime Minister overnight and was despatched on the hot-line this morning (copies will reach you and other recipients of this minute separately).

As you know, the Prime Minister would prefer that her message to President Reagan should not be copied to her other colleagues among the Seven. But I believe she would be content for our representatives in the countries concerned to be briefed both about the invitation and about the nature of our reply and to be authorised to explain orally to Personal Representatives in their capitals the line we are taking. I should be grateful if the FCO can make arrangements accordingly.

I am copying this minute to Roger Bone (FCO) and John Kerr (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

1 October 1982

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RS