



Prime Minister Econ. Summit ②

Not much news here. You do not need to read the attachments.

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A.S.C. 251/2

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Ref. A083/0657

MR COLMS

I mentioned at yesterday's briefing meeting for the Anglo-Italian bilateral that the United States Secretary of State had given a press conference on 17 February about the Williamsburg Economic Summit.

2. The United States Personal Representative has now sent me a transcript of Mr Shultz's statement and answers to questions and of a comment on them by Mr Eugene Brake. I attach copies herewith.

3. The United States Personal Representative describes Mr Shultz as expressing the hope that the leaders of the Summit countries will have an opportunity for a free, informal and fruitful exchange of views without the need for a rigid agenda; and he hopes that other Personal Representatives will take a similar line in any discussions with the press about the Williamsburg Summit.

4. I am sending copies of this minute and the attachments to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

25 February 1983



EUR-509  
(BACKGROUND FOR THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT)

EXCERPTS: SHULTZ FEBRUARY 17 NEWS CONFERENCE  
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SEVEN SET ON INFORMAL SUMMIT, SHULTZ SAYS

WASHINGTON -- THE HEADS OF SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE A "RELATIVELY INFORMAL" ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ SAYS.

AT WHITE HOUSE NEWS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 17, SHULTZ TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE LEADERS WANT TO "SPEND A FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME JUST WITH THEMSELVES OR WITH A VERY FEW OTHER PEOPLE AND REALLY TALK OUT SOME OF THESE IMPORTANT (ECONOMIC) ISSUES AND GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT THEIR COUNTERPARTS THINK."

THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28-29 IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, A HISTORIC TOWN RESTORED TO ITS EIGHTEENTH CENTURY APPEARANCE. ATTENDING WILL BE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, AND CANADA.

FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE SHULTZ PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ALL SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

SECRETARY SHULTZ: THE MESSAGE OF WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE SUMMIT, IN A WAY, CAN BE ILLUSTRATED BY A DESCRIPTION OF AT LEAST THE LITTLE BIT I'VE SEEN OF SUMMITS IN THEIR EARLY STAGES. BACK IN EARLY 1975, PRESIDENT FORD GOT AHOLD OF ME -- I WAS A PRIVATE CITIZEN -- AND TOLD ME THAT SOME OF THE LEADERS OF EUROPE HAD THE LEADING INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TO TALK OVER THE PROBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, THE THINGS THEY WERE DOING, THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON THEM, AND IDEAS THAT THEY HAD FOR WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THEM. AND HE DIDN'T KNOW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF THESE SUGGESTIONS, BUT, SINCE IT HAPPENED THAT I KNEW SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, WOULD I MIND GOING AROUND AND TALKING TO THEM AND GET A LITTLE CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT WAS ON THEIR MINDS.

SO I DID THAT, AND IT TURNED OUT THAT WHAT WAS ON PEOPLES' MINDS AND WHAT I REPORTED BACK TO PRESIDENT FORD WAS THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS AND, CERTAINLY, THERE ARE TODAY, AND THAT IT OUGHT TO BE A USEFUL THING FOR THE HEADS OF THESE COUNTRIES TO GET TOGETHER AND SHARE THEIR IDEAS, DEVELOP WHATEVER COMMON THOUGHTS THEY COULD, AT LEAST HAVE A DISCUSSION SUCH THAT, AS THEY RESPECTIVELY WENT ABOUT MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICY, THEY WOULD HAVE IN MIND THE PERSPECTIVES AND THE THOUGHTS OF THE OTHER PARTIES, AND THAT, IN ORDER FOR THIS TO TAKE PLACE, THEY REALLY HAD TO KIND OF GET TOGETHER AS PEOPLE AND TALK AND GENUINELY SHARE IDEAS, HAVE AN INTERCHANGE.

AND THAT WAS WHAT, IT SEEMED TO ME, THEY REALLY WANTED, AND, AS IT TURNED OUT, PRESIDENT FORD THOUGHT THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA. AND SO THE FIRST OF THESE SUMMITS, THAT WAS HELD AT RAMBOUILLET, EMERGED.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE OF THEM, ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN HELPING GET SEVERAL OF THEM GOING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT WAS A RELATIVELY INFORMAL KIND OF MEETING IN A PLACE THAT WAS PRIVATE. A GREAT DEAL OF THE TIME WAS SPENT WITH THE HEADS OF STATE TALKING WITH EACH OTHER. THEY HAD OTHER PEOPLE AROUND -- FOREIGN MINISTERS AND TREASURY SECRETARIES AND SO FORTH. BUT, BASICALLY, THE EMPHASIS WAS ON AN INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG THE HEADS OF STATE.

WE FIND NOW THAT THE DESIRE OF ALL THE HEADS OF STATE IS TO HAVE THAT KIND OF A MEETING IN WHICH THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT



OF TIME POSSIBLE IS SPENT WITH THEM BY THEMSELVES, TALKING WITH EACH OTHER, OR WITH OTHERS AROUND, BUT IN -- NOT WITHOUT AN AGENDA, BUT WITHOUT A SORT OF SUPERSTRUCTURED KIND OF AGENDA THAT WOULD SORT OF INTERRUPT THE FREE FLOW OF CONVERSATION AND EXCHANGE AMONG THEM.

SO THAT IDEA IS DOMINATING THE THINKING BEHIND HOW THIS WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT WILL BE ORGANIZED.

THE AGENDA, OF COURSE, IS NOT REALLY DISCUSSED MUCH, LET ALONE AGREED TO. BUT THE APPROACH TO DOING IT IS FOR THE VARIOUS, THE RESPECTIVE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO GET DIRECT THOUGHTS FROM THEIR HEAD OF STATE AND TO TRY TO DEVELOP AN AGENDA BASED ON THOSE THOUGHTS. SO, LET'S SAY YOU HAVE AN APPROACH TO THE AGENDAS FROM THE TOP DOWN, AS DISTINCT FROM AN APPROACH WHICH HAS THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND MINISTRY PEOPLE WORKING AWAY WITH EACH OTHER AND DECIDING WHAT THE ISSUES ARE AND TRYING TO FRAME A TIGHT AGENDA LOOKING TOWARD A COMMUNIQUE THAT IS BY AND LARGE PRE-WRITTEN AND SO ON.

SO THAT IS THE APPROACH THAT'S BEING TAKEN AND, OBVIOUSLY, IN THAT KIND OF AN APPROACH THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE INTERCHANGE THAT TAKES PLACE AT THE SUMMIT, AS DISTINCT FROM SOME ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME SORT AT THE END OF IT. THE EVENT ITSELF AND THE INTERCHANGE IS WHAT IS BEING POINTED AT.

SO THAT'S BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION. AND I'LL BE GLAD TO TRY YOUR QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE KEY SUBJECT AT THE SUMMIT AND WHAT WILL THE U.S. PURSUE THE MOST?

ANSWER: WELL, OF COURSE, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT THE AGENDA WILL BE. THAT'S WHAT THE HEADS OF STATE, THROUGH MEETINGS OF THEIR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, WILL TRY TO WORK OUT. AND I'M SURE AS THE SUMMIT APPROACHES AND THE SHAPE OF VARIOUS PROBLEMS EMERGES MORE CLEARLY IT WILL GET SET, BOTH IN TERMS OF WHAT SUBJECTS AND IN WHAT ORDER AND WHO'S GOING TO LEAD OFF ON THE SUBJECTS AND THAT KIND OF THING. BUT --

Q: WELL, DO YOU FORESEE IT TO BE ECONOMIC MOSTLY?

A: IT'S AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT TRADITIONALLY. AND IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO THINK OF SUBJECTS. BUT JUST HOW THEY WILL BE FRAMED AND WHAT ORDER THEY COME IN AND SO ON HAS TO BE WORKED OUT.

Q: WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO THERE? WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO SEE COME OUT OF IT?

A: WELL, WE'RE -- THE PRESIDENT IS THINKING ABOUT IT. IT'S SOME MONTHS AWAY. AND HE WILL BE TAKING PART THROUGH ALLEN WALLIS, IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IT. AND I THINK THE RIGHT WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS IS TO LET THAT AGENDA EMERGE FROM THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q: IS THE PRESIDENT LIKELY TO HAVE A SPECIFIC SINGLE INITIATIVE LIKE MITTERRAND DID LAST YEAR ON HIGH TECH?

A: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THIS AGENDA WILL BE SHAPED. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY HIGHLY SPECIFIC THING THAT WILL LIKELY BE PUSHED, ALTHOUGH EVENTS WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT ON THAT AND THE THINKING HAS YET TO EMERGE.

Q: HOW HIGH A PRIORITY WILL THE RESTRICTIONS -- THE STUDY GROUPS THAT YOU ANNOUNCED WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION LIFTED PIPE-LINE SANCTIONS -- HAVE AT THIS SUMMIT? ALL THE STUDY GROUPS ON RESTRICTING CREDIT AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY SALES TO THE RUSSIANS?

A: YES, WELL, THERE ARE FIVE OF THOSE EFFORTS UNDERWAY. AND WHAT THEIR STATUS WILL BE AT THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT, I DON'T KNOW. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL HAVE TAKEN PROBABLY A VERY CONSIDERABLE SHAPE.

THERE ARE ACTUALLY THREE MEETINGS AT WHICH THOSE SUBJECTS MIGHT WELL BE TALKED ABOUT. THERE'S THE SUMMIT MEETING IN LATE MAY IN WILLIAMSBURG. THERE WILL BE AN OECD -- THE MINISTERIAL -- MEETING IN PARIS IN THE EARLY PART OF MAY. AND THERE'S A NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING IN, I THINK AROUND THE 8TH OR 9TH OF JUNE, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SO THAT THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE TALKED ABOUT, NO DOUBT, IN ALL THREE SESSIONS.



WHETHER THERE WILL BE SOMETHING OUT OF THE STUDIES THAT GETS A LOT OF FOCUS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT JUST DEPENDS UPON WHAT THE STATE OF THEM IS. IT MAY VERY WELL BE THAT THERE'S AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN THINGS AND PEOPLE GO ON ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AND ABOUT ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IS TO TALK NOTE OF THEM. BUT IT IS CERTAINLY A POSSIBLE TOPIC, THE GENERAL EAST-WEST ECONOMIC SUBJECT.

BUT I'M NOT TRYING TO PUT THAT OUT IN FRONT OR SAY THIS IS OUR SUBJECT; BUT YOU AND I COULD SIT HERE AND WE COULD SPIN OUT ANY NUMBER OF POSSIBLE TOPICS. THAT'S ONE OF THEM.

Q: WHAT'S THE OVERALL PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY? IS IT WORLDWIDE RECESSION? I MEAN, AT SOME TIMES IT'S BEEN INTEREST RATES. AT SOME TIME IT'S BEEN GROWTH RATES. IT ALL TIES TOGETHER. BUT JUST AS AN ECONOMIST, WHAT'S THE OVERALL PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT THE LEADER WILL REALLY WANT TO FOCUS ON?

A: WELL, I SPENT A GOOD PART OF YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE DISCUSSING THAT SUBJECT IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. PARTICULARLY THE FORMER WAS DIRECTLY ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. AND I'LL REFER YOU TO THAT TESTIMONY.

I'D LIKE TO KEEP THIS SESSION RESTRICTED TO THE SUMMIT MEETING ITSELF....

Q: TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT HOW IT'S SHAPING UP -- OTHER THAN "IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN."

SECRETARY SHULTZ: IF IT SHAPES UP AS WE WANT IT TO, AS THE PRESIDENT WANTS IT TO, AND AS THE OTHERS HEADS OF STATE WANT IT TO -- AND I SUPPOSE IN A SENSE YOU CAN SEE THIS AS A CONTEST BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE ON THE ONE HAND AND THE BUREAUCRACIES OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS ON THE OTHER. WE'LL SEE WHICH ONE GETS THEIR WAY.

THE HEADS OF STATE WANT TO HAVE A RELATIVELY INFORMAL MEETING WHERE THEY CAN SPEND A FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME JUST WITH THEMSELVES OR WITH A VERY FEW OTHER PEOPLE AND REALLY TALK OUT SOME OF THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT THEIR COUNTERPARTS THINK. THAT'S THEIR IDEA OF HOW THIS SHOULD WORK. AND AS YOU POINT OUT, IT ALWAYS STARTS OUT THAT WAY, AND IT WINDS UP VERY DIFFERENT. THIS TIME THOSE OF US WHO ARE WORKING WITH OUR HEADS OF STATE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE IF WE CAN'T HELP THEM GET THEIR WAY -- AND THEN WE'LL SEE.

Q: ALL EIGHT SUMMITS HAVE STARTED OUT WITH THE SAME PREMISE. IT'S DEJA VU, BUT --

A: AND SOMETIMES IT'S WORKED. I THINK IT WORKED IN RAMBOUILLET PRETTY WELL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT....

Q: MR. SHULTZ, ARE ALL THE HEADS OF STATE COMING?

A: YES. EVERYONE HAS -- EACH GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED ON THE DATES AND THE LOCALE, AND SO EVERYONE WILL SHOW UP.

Q: DO YOU TOTALLY RULE OUT A COMMUNIQUE AT THE END?

A: WHAT WILL EMERGE AT THE END WILL BE UP TO THE HEADS OF STATE TO DETERMINE. (END EXCERPTS)



FUR-426 (2/17/83)

(BACKGROUND FOR THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT)

SUMMIT: JUST A QUIET GET-TOGETHER -- THEY HOPE (650)

BY EUGENE BRAKE  
USIA ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON -- IF THE LEADERS OF SEVEN LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS GET THEIR WAY, THEIR 1983 ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA IN MAY WILL BE A QUIET OPPORTUNITY TO TALK PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY ABOUT WORLD PROBLEMS.

ALL THE LEADERS WANT TO AVOID RIGID AGENDAS, PRE-WRITTEN COMMUNIQUE, OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD IMPEDE A FREE FLOW OF DISCUSSION AMONG THEM. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ TOLD REPORTERS AT A WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 17.

THE DESIRE IS TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING LIKE THE FIRST OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETINGS, HELD AT RAMBOUILLET, FRANCE,

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IN 1975, SHULTZ SAID. THERE, HE EXPLAINED, THE AIM WAS FOR THE LEADERS "TO GET TOGETHER AND SHARE THEIR IDEAS, DEVELOP WHATEVER COMMON THOUGHTS THEY COULD, AT LEAST HAVE A DISCUSSION SUCH THAT AS THEY RESPECTIVELY WENT ABOUT MAKING THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICIES, THEY WOULD HAVE IN MIND THE THOUGHTS AND THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE OTHER PARTIES."

THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT WAS A RELATIVELY INFORMALLY MEETING, HE SAID, HELD IN A PLACE THAT WAS PRIVATE, WITH MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LEADERS TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER AS PEOPLE.

THE SUMMIT LEADERS WANT TO HAVE THAT KIND OF MEETING AGAIN AT WILLIAMSBURG. SHULTZ EXPLAINED THAT OTHER PEOPLE WILL BE AROUND TOO -- FOREIGN MINISTERS AND FINANCE MINISTERS, FOR EXAMPLE -- BUT THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON A FREE INTERCHANGE AMONG THE HEADS OF STATE THEMSELVES AND NOT ON SOME KIND OF ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE END OF THE MAY 28-29 MEETING.

AS SHULTZ DESCRIBED THE PROCESS, THE WAY THE AGENDA IS

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BEING DEVELOPED THIS TIME DIFFERS FROM PAST PRACTICES. IN THE PAST, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUMMIT LEADERS WOULD GET TOGETHER AND AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES ON AN AGENDA WHICH THEY WOULD THEN RECOMMEND TO THE HEADS OF STATE. THIS TIME THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES -- FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS W. ALLEN WALLIS -- WILL MEET WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE HEADS OF STATE FIRST, GET THEIR LEADERS' IDEAS ON WHAT SHOULD BE TALKED ABOUT AT WILLIAMSBURG, AND THEN MEET TOGETHER TO GET AGREEMENT ON A COMMON LIST.

SINCE THIS PROCESS HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, SHULTZ COULD ONLY ANSWER "THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN" TO MOST OF THE REPORTERS' QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AT WILLIAMSBURG.

ASKED IF THE RESULTS OF STUDIES ON EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS MIGHT BE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT, SHULTZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS "CERTAINLY POSSIBLE," DEPENDING ON THE PROGRESS THAT IS MADE IN THIS AREA IN THE MEAN TIME. BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE

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WAS "NOT TRYING TO PUT THAT OUT FRONT" AS A SUMMIT AGENDA ITEM.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT OFFICIALS HAVE CAUTIONED REPORTERS THAT SUMMIT MEETINGS ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY TO GIVE THE LEADERS A CHANCE TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH ONE ANOTHER'S THOUGHTS, AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LOOK FOR SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END.



REMINDED OF THIS FACT, SHULTZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHAT USUALLY OCCURS IN THE MONTHS PRECEDING A SUMMIT MEETING IS "A CONTEST BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE PRESS ON THE OTHER" -- THE HEADS OF STATE WANTING AN INFORMAL, PRIVATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, THEIR SUBORDINATES AND THE PRESS POSSIBLY HAVING OTHER IDEAS.

BUT THIS TIME, HE SAID, THE HEADS OF STATE MAY GET THEIR WAY.

IT HAPPENED AT RAMBOUILLET, HE POINTED OUT.

ITEM