



Ref. A083/0965

MR BUTLER

Professor Walters has sent me a note, to ask that, since the Prime Minister wishes him to attend the meeting of Personal Representatives in April, he should be put on the list for circulation of papers.

2. There is of course no problem about sending Professor Walters copies of papers.

3. There is, however, a problem about attendance at the meeting of Personal Representatives. It has been a rule for some years - certainly since before I became the Prime Minister's Personal Representative - that Personal Representatives may be accompanied by only two "experts" at the table for their plenary meetings (restricted meetings are for Personal Representatives only). An exception is made only for the host country, who may be supported by one or two extra people. It has been desirable and important to hold to this rule, to prevent a proliferation of people which could still further bureaucratise the process of Summit preparation: we come under constant pressure, mainly from the Italians and the Japanese, to make exceptions to the rule. I have always strongly supported the stand that has always been taken to resist that pressure, generally successfully.

4. I am supported at plenary sessions by "experts" from the Treasury (Mr Littler) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Sir Antony Acland), or his deputy if he is unable to come). The representation from other countries is similar.

5. If Professor Walters were to attend these plenary meetings, he would therefore have to displace either the Treasury or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives, at least for those sessions at which the matters of primary interest to him were discussed. There are obvious difficulties about either: both the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have a good case for being there; their counterparts from other Summit



countries are round the table; and, if one of them was to yield place to Professor Walters, there would be some loss of face involved, and we could expect strenuous protests from the departmental Minister concerned.

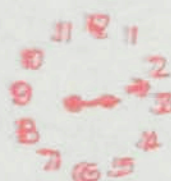
6. There will of course be no problem about including Professor Walters in the Prime Minister's party for Williamsburg itself. I wonder, however, whether we could explore other ways of associating him with the preparatory process which did not create these problems. For instance, he could be brought into the process of preparing the briefs that are produced for those attending meetings of Personal Representatives, and into the preparation of any documents which we send to other Personal Representatives. And perhaps the Prime Minister could ask him to go to Washington and discuss the issues which will arise at Williamsburg with Mr Sprinkel of the United States Treasury or Mr Wallis of the State Department - though we should obviously have to tell the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, if anything like that was envisaged.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28 March 1983

28 MAR 1983



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Williamsburg

Your minute of today's date to Mr. Butler.

The Prime Minister agrees that the best arrangement would be for Mr. Walters to attend the meeting of Personal Representatives in the middle of May in Washington (but not the meeting in Williamsburg on 16 April).

A. J. COLES

31 March 1983

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MR. BUTLER

The next meeting of Personnel Representatives is to be at Williamsburg on 16 April. It will be, so far as plenary sessions go, a one-day business: the Personnel Representatives will pregather on their own in Washington the previous evening (for a discussion which is likely to be purely procedural), and will spend Sunday morning being shown what is what at Williamsburg.

2. The crucial preliminary meeting is likely to be the following one, in the middle of May, in Washington.

3. I imagine that the Prime Minister will want Professor Walters to be at

her meeting on 13 April. I think that
the most productive use of his time is
likely to be for him to be at that meeting,
and then to come to the Washington
meeting in May.

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fcc J Coles

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

We spoke about your minute of 28 March (A083/0965) about the suggestion that Professor Walters should attend the meeting of Personal Representatives in April. You subsequently told me that the meeting is to take place at Williamsburg.

A relevant factor is that Professor Walters is currently in Washington and is not due to return until 12 April. He can therefore attend the meeting of Personal Representatives (or some part of it) and have any discussions on related topics in Washington without having to make a special journey.

But we ought to warn him that he may need to delay the date of his return. Subject to your advice, I would like to do this (or Mr. Coles will in my absence).

E. E. R. BUTLER

31 March 1983