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cc: Co
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MoD

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 March 1985

With your letter of 19 March you sent Robin Butler the draft of a political declaration to be made from the Economic Summit on the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

We showed your draft to the Prime Minister. She has asked me to let you know that in general she thinks that the draft is on the right lines, and covers all the themes that ought to feature in such a declaration. She feels, however, that it is somewhat on the long side, and perhaps a little repetitive. Tone in such a draft is of course very much a matter of taste, but for her taste the draft would gain in impact if it were a little more measured.

As you will see the Prime Minister suggests that the aspiration for German unification be dealt with by implication in the fourth paragraph of the draft.

With these considerations in mind, and with a number of detailed amendments in wording which she would like to accommodate, the Prime Minister has approved a revised version of the draft declaration, a copy of which I enclose herewith. She hopes that this may be of use to the Federal Chancellor in the next stage of the drafting.

The Prime Minister understands from her Personal Representative that the Chancellor intends the next version of the draft to be circulated for consideration at the next meeting of Personal Representatives. It would be very helpful if the revised draft could be available in capitals in advance of the meeting, so that she can give her instructions and express her views to her Personal Representative for the meeting.

Charles Powell

Herr Horst Teltschik

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POLITICAL DECLARATION
ON THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Heads of State or Government of Canada, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, meeting together in Bonn on the eve of the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, remember in grief all those who lost their lives in that time, whether by acts of war or as victims of inhumanity, repression and tyranny. We acknowledge the duty we owe to their memories, and to all those who follow after them, to uphold peace, freedom and justice in our countries and in the world.

The end of that war was the basis for a new beginning. We have learned the lessons of history. As the sounds of battle ceased, and as all tackled the tasks of physical reconstruction and moral and spiritual renewal, the victors extended hands of reconciliation and support to the vanquished. Today, linked in a peaceful, secure and lasting friendship, we share in all our seven countries a commitment to freedom and to democratic rights and principles. We are proud that the Governments of our countries owe their legitimacy to the will of our peoples expressed in free elections. We are proud that our people are free to say and write what they will, to practise the religions they profess, and to travel where they will. We are committed to assuring the maintenance of societies in which individual initiative and enterprise may flourish and the ideas of social justice, obligations and rights may be pursued.

We recognise that we can secure those aims, and meet both the opportunities and the challenges presented by technological and industrial change, more effectively in partnership than on our own. In Europe a community of like-minded nations, committed to freedom with responsibility and enterprise, is growing in number, strength and prosperity.

The nations of the Pacific region are drawing ever closer together. The partnership of North America, Europe and Japan is a guarantee of peace and stability in the world.

Other nations that shared with ours in the sacrifices of the Second World War are divided from us by fundamental differences of political systems. We deplore the divisions in Europe that are the consequence of those differences and, in our commitment to the ideals of peace and freedom, we seek by peaceful means to lower the barriers that have arisen between and within the peoples of Europe.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, of which they as well as we are members, all countries have a joint responsibility to maintain international peace and security. We welcome dialogue and seek understanding across the barriers that divide us. We are committed to the search for balanced and verifiable agreements on arms reductions and disarmament, in the fields of strategic nuclear weapons and intermediate-range nuclear forces, with regard to outer space, in chemical weapons and in conventional forces. Our goal is peace, with the minimum of armaments required to assure security. We seek a stable balance at the lowest possible levels of forces.

We shall continue to seek to work with the developing countries, so as to help them to fight hunger and disease, to build free and prosperous societies, and to take their part in the community of nations committed to peace and freedom.

So, as we look back to the sacrifices of the Second World War, we dedicate ourselves and our countries anew to the creation of a world in which all peoples enjoy the blessings of peace, of justice, and of freedom from oppression, want and fear; a world in which individuals are able to fulfil their responsibilities for themselves, to their families and to their communities; a world in which all nations, large and small, combine to work together for a better future for all mankind.