

PRIME MINISTER

Bonn Economic Summit: Bilateral with President Reagan

We are having difficulty in fixing a bilateral with President Reagan. There are various reasons for this. The White House has been virtually under siege in the last week or so with the problems of Nicaragua, the budget and the President's visit to Bitburg. It is very difficult to get any decisions out of them. I understand from Oliver Wright that his staff have committed him to bilaterals with President Mitterrand (who has not seen him since his re-election) and Mr Nakasone but are resistant to fixing any other meetings. Oliver believes firmly that if the question were to be put to the President himself he would certainly want to have a bilateral with you. He is trying to get a decision out of Mike Deaver in the course of today but recommends that, if he does not succeed, you should send a short personal message to the President.

I think this is right. It would be almost unprecedented for you not to have a bilateral with the President in the margins of an Economic Summit. I have had a go at a personal message and attach a draft. If you agree, we ought to despatch it tomorrow, Saturday - unless Oliver Wright succeeds in the meantime.

C.D.P.

26 April 1985