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Mr Powell

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*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A087/1426

20 May 1987

*Dear Philip,*

Venice Economic Summit: Terrorism

We have discussed the proposal by the French Ministry of the Interior that there should be a meeting of Ministers of the Interior of the Summit seven countries before the Venice Economic Summit next month to discuss terrorism.

As you know, I found this proposal strange. At the last meeting of Personal Representatives the French Personal Representative was absolutely adamant that his President would not be prepared to accept any wording which remotely suggested any further institutionalisation of discussions of terrorism in the Summit context: indeed, this led to considerable argument with the Americans. It looks as if co-ordination between the President's Office and the Ministry of the Interior in Paris leaves something to be desired.

--- I attach a copy of the draft statement on terrorism, in the form in which it was agreed at the meeting of Personal Representatives at the weekend. The Prime Minister has said that she is well content with this draft.

The Prime Minister has also, in the past, been reluctant to extend the role of the Summit grouping beyond that of preparing Summit meetings.

/In the

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In the circumstances I should have thought that it would be right for the Home Secretary to be pretty cool about the proposal for a meeting of the Ministers of the Interior. He could perhaps say that we saw no such need for a meeting, given that a satisfactory text had been agreed at the last meeting of Personal Representatives, at which "experts" on terrorism were also present: but that, if it were decided to call such a meeting, he would wish to consider where and how to be represented.

I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Powell and Tony Galsworthy.

*Yours ever*

*Trevor Woolley*

*(Private Secretary)*

*Agreed by the Cabinet Secretary and  
signed in his absence.*

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Rev. 2 15 May 1987. 11.45 p.m.

**Draft statement on terrorism**

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major democracies and the Representatives of the European Community assembled here in Venice, profoundly aware of our peoples' concern at the threat posed by terrorism,

-- resolutely condemn all forms of terrorism, including aircraft hijackings and hostage-taking, and reiterate our belief that whatever its motives, terrorism has no justification;

-- confirm the commitment of each of us to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors;

-- remain resolved to apply, in respect of any state clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, effective measures within the framework of international law and in our own jurisdictions;

-- welcome the progress made in international cooperation against terrorism since we last met in Tokyo in May 1986;

-- reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism both through national measures and through international cooperation among ourselves and with others, when appropriate, and therefore renew our appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international cooperation in all appropriate fora;

-- will continue our efforts to improve the safety of travellers. We welcome improvements in airport and

maritime security, and encourage the work of ICAO and IMO in this regard. Each of us will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines clearly implicated in supporting terrorism. (\*)

The Heads of State or Government have decided on measures, annexed to this statement, to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation;

- commit ourselves to support the rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. We will work with each other and with other countries as and when appropriate and in the relevant fora, within the framework of domestic and international law on

(\*) Sentence to be checked.

the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of terrorists. In particular we reaffirm the principle established by relevant international conventions of trying or extraditing, according to national laws and those international conventions, those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

## ANNEX

The Heads of State or Government recall that in their Tokyo Statement on International Terrorism they agreed to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation. To this end, in cases where a country refuses extradition or prosecution of those who have committed offences described in the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and/or does not return the aircraft involved, the Heads of State or Government are jointly resolved that their Governments shall take immediate action to cease all flights to that country.

At the same time, their Governments will initiate action to halt all incoming flights from that country or from any country by the airlines of the country concerned.

The Heads of State or Government intend also to extend the Bonn Declaration in due time to cover any future relevant amendment to the above Convention or any other aviation conventions relating to the extradition or prosecution of the offenders.

The Heads of State or Government urge other Governments to join them in this commitment.