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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 May 1987

*Dear Charles**Japan*Venice Economic Summit: Terrorism

The Foreign Secretary has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's letter of 20 May to Philip Mawer, which mentions that the Prime Minister is well content with the draft statement on terrorism agreed at the meeting of Personal Representatives on 16/17 May.

The Foreign Secretary agrees that the draft contains the main points which we would wish to see included in a Summit declaration on terrorism. The text agreed by the Personal Representatives was based on an original British draft, and it is a vast improvement on the draft circulated by the Italian Presidency. Nevertheless Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that the text could be further improved at the following points (highlighted in the attached text):-

- (a) Second page. The phrase "through international co-operation amongst ourselves and with others, when appropriate, and therefore renew their appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international cooperation in all appropriate fora ..." seems clumsy. It might perhaps be redrafted on the following lines: "through international cooperation amongst Summit Seven partners and with all other like-minded countries".
- (b) Page 3. The French have placed a reserve on the phrase "Each of us will continue to monitor the activities of airlines clearly implicated in supporting terrorism" because they claim not to understand its full legal implications. We believe that this idea should be incorporated in the Summit declaration, but the present drafting is unsatisfactory. Monitoring should be carried out in the case of airlines which belong to countries whose Governments sponsor terrorism. When an airline is clearly implicated in supporting terrorism, it should not be simply monitored; its services should be terminated, as we did last summer with Libyan Arab Airlines. Thus the phrase should be redrafted to read: "Our Governments will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines operated by states sponsoring terrorism".

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- (c) Page 3. The phrase "We will work with each other and other countries as and when appropriate and in the relevant fora within the framework of domestic and international law ..." seems convoluted. It might be redrafted to read: "We pledge increased co-operation on the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of terrorists". Alternatively, the phrase might be omitted altogether.

All of the phrases referred to above were introduced by the French at the meeting of Personal Representatives in order to safeguard their own position. It may therefore not be easy to change them. Nevertheless the Foreign Secretary believes that our suggested amendments would improve the text and produce a crisper, more convincing document. If the Prime Minister agrees we shall work for these amendments.

As you know, there is now a French proposal for a meeting of Interior Ministers in Paris to prepare for the Summit. We understand that the Home Secretary proposes to attend. It is not yet entirely clear what the agenda for this meeting will be; but if the draft declaration is discussed then the Home Secretary may wish to work for amendments along the lines suggested in this letter.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong and to Philip Mawer.

James Maw

R N Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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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.

