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Ref. A087/1555

MR POWELL

The Prime Minister is aware of the project, led by Sir David Wills and sponsored by a number of very distinguished people, to set up a "21st Century Trust", which would, in collaboration with a sister foundation in the United States, endeavour to sustain, develop and promote the ideals of the free Western democracies, based on the freedom of the individual and the rule of law.

2. The United States supporters of the project have apparently suggested to the White House that the Venice Economic Summit should be invited to make some appropriate reference to this project in the Summit declaration, and wording for this purpose has been proposed.
3. I do not know whether President Reagan is likely to follow this up in Venice. If he does, and if he proposes the inclusion of a reference in the communiqué, it would be difficult for the Prime Minister to stand out against it: this is obviously a wholly admirable proposal (not involving any Government money in this country) which the Prime Minister could in principle support.
4. But I think that it is more a subject for the exchange of views among Heads of State or Government than for inclusion in the Summit declaration. I doubt whether it is really appropriate to tie a "Summit" label round the 21st Century Trust; and I am not clear that it is yet sufficiently strongly developed to be able to withstand the degree of public attention which would be aroused by referring to it, even obliquely, in a



Summit declaration. At official level, I should be inclined to discourage the President's Personal Representative from pressing for such a reference.

5. I have discussed this with Sir Kenneth Stowe, who is going to be associated with the 21st Century Trust. He agrees that the Prime Minister could be advised to respond positively and with support if the President raises the matter while she is in Venice; that she should not suggest a reference in the declaration; and that she should not encourage, but need not resist, suggestions from the Americans that such a reference should be included.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

3 June 1987