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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 June 1987

CDP 5/6

Baroness

Venice Economic Summit : East/West Declaration

with CDP?

Thank you for your letter AO 87/1574 of 4 June. We have shortened the first of the two additions you suggested to the draft, to avoid any possible leak from Washington which would explicitly link our handling of the Summit with the election campaign. But I think the sense still emerges clearly. We have incorporated the extra clause at the end of paragraph 3(c) as you suggested.

I confirm that the Foreign Secretary is content with our proposed handling of the Declaration.

I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Powell and John Howe.

Done

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office

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MR POWELL
✓
✓ C.P.C.



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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service
Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A087/1574

4 June 1987

Dear Robert,

Venice Economic Summit: East-West Declaration

Thank you for your letter of 3 June, in reply to mine of the same date. I have also seen Charles Powell's letter of the same date.

If the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is content with the proposed handling, I am content. But I suggest that you should add an extra sentence at the end of paragraph 1 on the following lines:

"The interest of the media here in the Summit is largely focussed on its possible impact on the Election campaign, and they could be expected to make the most of anything which could be presented as a setback to the Prime Minister's hopes for a successful and harmonious Summit meeting."

and an extra clause at the end of paragraph 2(c) as follows:

"and could have an adverse impact on public perceptions of the Summit, particularly in countries where general elections are imminent".

I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Powell and John Howe.

Yours ever
Robert Armstrong

R N Culshaw Esq MVO
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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