



MJBBCU

APC

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*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT 1988

The Prime Minister has considered your minute of 8 July about representation at the meeting of Personal Representatives on 7 and 8 November to plan the preparations for the Toronto Economic Summit. She wants to reflect further on the appointment of a new Personal Representative before making up her mind. She therefore agrees that you should accept the invitation for 7 and 8 November without indicating at this stage who will actually attend.

Charles Powell  
12 July 1987

SPW

Ref. A087/2015


MR WICKS

Toronto Economic Summit 1988

The Canadian Personal Representative proposes to convene a meeting of Personal Representatives on 7 and 8 November 1987 near Vancouver, to review the results of the Venice Summit and plan the preparations for Toronto. This proposal follows the usual form for a preliminary autumn meeting of Personal Representatives, usually without accompanying "experts".

2. I think it would make sense for the United Kingdom to be represented at this meeting by whoever is going to take my place as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for the purpose of preparing Economic Summits.
3. Since Economic Summits first began in 1975 the Prime Minister's Personal Representative has been the Secretary of the Cabinet. You suggested that the Prime Minister might wish to make a different arrangement in future.
4. Coming with a Treasury background, Mr Butler would of course be well qualified to undertake this duty. It has also added considerably to the status and influence of the Prime Minister's Personal Representative that he was known to be close to the Prime Minister; some of my colleagues have palpably not been nearly as close to their Heads of State or Government, and this has worked to their disadvantage in the discussions.
5. If the Prime Minister wants to look elsewhere, one obvious candidate would be Sir Geoffrey Littler, who is the United Kingdom's "G5 Deputy". But there is something to be said for keeping that role separate from that of the Prime Minister's Personal Representative, since the G5 Deputy reports in the normal course of business to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Prime Minister  
This is for information  
only at this stage. No  
decision is required  
before the early autumn  
C.D.P.  
10/7



6. A third alternative would be to nominate (as some other countries do) a senior Foreign Office official: either Sir Patrick Wright or (more plausibly) Mr Rodric Braithwaite, the Deputy Secretary (Economic) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

7. If the Prime Minister prefers not to take any decision for the time being, I will simply accept the invitation for 7 and 8 November, and we can leave it for later decision who should actually go to the meeting.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 July 1987