



File Sherpa

10 DOWNING STREET

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*From the Principal Private Secretary*

28 January 1988

ECONOMIC SUMMIT : SCIENCE

Thank you for your letter of 22 January in which you ask whether the Chief Scientific Adviser should meet the Canadian Sherpa, Mrs. Ostry, when she visits London at the beginning of February. I am grateful to you for writing so fully about these international science issues. I readily accept that the issues to which you refer in your letter are real ones. There may indeed be substantive and mutually satisfactory bargains to be struck over collaboration on major scientific projects and it is just possible that these bargains could best be struck at the highest level. But as I know you recognise, we have to be very careful with any approach, if one is to be made, because of the sensitivities involved. In particular, I would not want to have this matter raised on the Summit network without the prior agreement of the Prime Minister, who as you know has somewhat reserved views at present about scientific collaboration.

Against this background, I will, as a first step, have a word with Mrs. Ostry when she is in London next week. If this shows that the Canadians wish to carry things forward from the Chair, then we will be faced with a fact with which we shall have to deal. We can develop our attitude in slower time, in preparation for the Sherpas meeting at the end of next month. And we can secure the Prime Minister's agreement to our proceeding. In the meantime, I would not wish the Chief Scientific Officer to raise this matter with Mrs. Ostry.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rodric Braithwaite (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Sir Geoffrey Littler (HM Treasury), Sir Christopher Mallaby, John Fairclough, Richard Wilson and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(N. L. WICKS)

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