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From the Principal Private Secretary

5 February 1988

Dear Escriitt,

ECONOMIC SUMMIT : SCIENCE

As I promised in my letter of 28 January, I had a word with Dr. Ostry yesterday about Science and the Summit.

Dr. Ostry readily recalled Sir Robert Armstrong's intervention at last autumn's Sherpa meeting in Vancouver and she knew the Chief Scientific Adviser had had discussions at OECD. But she did not seem to be aware of any especial American interest in this area. She said that at an early stage in the preparations for the Summit, there had been suggestions in Ottawa that science might feature in the Summit discussion. Dr. Ostry was vague on details but she seemed to remember that the initiative concerned the medical aspects of an aging population. But the ideas had got lost in the thickets of the Ottawa bureaucracy and she did not expect them to emerge in time for the Summit.

My conversation with Dr. Ostry suggested to me that there is no enthusiasm on the Canadian side to raise science issues at the Summit. Nor do I believe that the UK interest is sufficiently strong, or developed as to justify our pressing the matter. But it is possible that other countries, notably the Americans, may raise the issue at the next Sherpa meeting in Canada at the end of this month. If they do I shall be in touch.

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).

Yours sincerely
Nigel Wicks

N.L. WICKS

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