



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 April 1988

Christopher Roberts Esq CB
Deputy Secretary
Department of Trade & Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Christopher,

1. Mr Sezaki, the Minister at the Japanese Embassy, called on me this morning to ask where we now stood on the 'T8' meeting of Trade Ministers. He was clearly trying to get a cross-reference on MITI's activities.
2. I went through the history up to and including the informal meeting of Trade Ministers in Konstanz. I said that I knew of no significant new developments since then. Our position had been regularly explained (though I went through the explanations again) and had not changed.
3. Mr Sezaki said that Trade Ministers had seemed somewhat more receptive to Mr Tamura's ideas. Some people in Tokyo found the British position slightly ambiguous. What would we do if there were a proposal for a dinner of the 'T8' in the margins of the OECD Ministerial meeting next month?
4. I said that we all had a great respect for Mr Tamura and, especially in the DTI, we wished to treat his ideas with courtesy. But even an informal meeting of the 'T8' in Paris next month risked being regarded as part of the preparation for the Summit four weeks later. It would be bound to give rise to difficulties within the Community. We were against it. I refused to be drawn on whether a British Minister might attend an informal dinner at which both 'T8' and 'non T8' Ministers were present.
5. Sezaki asked me about the position of the Americans. I said that I had heard that Mr Yeutter had said that he would not go to any 'T8' meal. But I could not of course speak with any authority.
6. Mr Sezaki said that he hoped to keep in touch. I said that I would welcome that. I assumed, and he agreed, that he would also remain in touch with you.

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7. I took the opportunity to underline once again that we did not accept the criticism of the Community's rollback offer in the GATT which was made last week by Murata, the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, when he called on Patrick Wright.

Yours truly,
Rodric

R Q Braithwaite

cc:

N Wicks Esq CBE, 10 Downing St
Sir Geoffrey Littler, HM Treasury
Ms Rosemary Spencer, EID(E)
R Cooper Esq MVO, FED

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