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Econ Pol. Summits
Pt 12

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MR COLES

Economic Summit 1984

With the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury, I have been giving some thought to the timing and venue of the Economic Summit in 1984, when on present form the Summit chairmanship comes round to this country again.

Timing

2. So far as the other Heads of State or Government are concerned, we probably do not need to take a final decision on timing before the end of this year. But this could be affected by the venue; if we were thinking in terms of a Summit outside London in accommodation which had to be booked well in advance, we might need to make at least provisional bookings well before the end of the year, indeed perhaps quite soon.

3. There are of course domestic political considerations which may affect the timing, and which I do not ask you to comment upon at this stage.

4. From a European point of view, it would be highly desirable to hold the Summit before 30 June 1984. In the first half of the year France holds the Presidency of the European Community, so that there would be no problem about the representation of the Presidency at the Summit. In the second half of the year Ireland holds the Presidency, and we should presumably have to ask Dr FitzGerald and Mr Barry to attend, following the precedent set at Versailles.

5. If The Queen is to entertain the Heads of State or Government (as she did in 1977), the timing plans for the Summit will need to have regard to her engagements.

Venue

6. We have discussed a number of possible locations: I attach a list. One obvious possibility is to hold the Summit at Lancaster House and 10 Downing Street, as it was held in 1977. This would

keep down costs, and would be convenient if The Queen is going to entertain the Heads of State or Government. But it does not provide the relaxed kind of informality and freedom from media pressures which was provided (for instance) at Montebello in 1981.

7. Of locations outside London, the hotel at Gleneagles has many advantages. It would be expensive, but so would any location outside London. But it is a long way from London. Blenheim Palace and Knole House would be marvellous settings, but Blenheim Palace would certainly not be big enough to house the whole Summit (in terms of the number of rooms available). Both would probably be very expensive to set up for a Summit conference, even if the owners (the Duke of Marlborough for Blenheim and the National Trust for Knole) would make the houses available. Oxford and Cambridge colleges are unlikely to be available before the end of June, but might be worth pursuing if we were thinking in terms of a Summit in July.

8. If we are thinking of a location outside London, but at the same time not too far away from it, the most promising alternatives we have so far been able to identify are:

1. Brighton (making suitable use of the Royal Pavilion), or some other resort with suitable facilities.
2. A combination of Leeds Castle and Chevening (and perhaps Hever Castle, if it is by then available for this sort of occasion).

Organisation

9. It is time to put preliminary preparations in hand, if we are going to do justice to the Summit in 1984. We propose eventually to set up a small team of officials, based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to look after the organisational side; it will probably need to be led by an overall co-ordinator of about Under Secretary rank. Once I have been able to take the Prime Minister's mind about timing and venue, I should like with Sir Antony Acland to nominate this co-ordinator and to put in hand further study of possible alternatives, as a basis for a further and more definite report to the Prime Minister in due course.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG
ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28 January 1983

POSSIBLE VENUES FOR 1984 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ADVANTAGES</u>	<u>DISADVANTAGES</u>
LONDON	Plentiful, good accommodation. Good existing press facilities. Minimal cost. Lancaster House facilities much improved since 1977.	Metropolitan location.
BLENHEIM PALACE	Splendid setting.	No accommodation. Blenheim was a French defeat. Difficult to get.
KNOLE HOUSE	Pleasant location.	No bedrooms. Difficult to arrange conference.
OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE	Adequate accommodation.	Mixed quality of accommodation. Possibility that Economic Summit would be in term.
LEEDS CASTLE	Beautiful setting. Good accommodation for limited number of people. Close to but separate from London. (32 bedrooms).	Limited accommodation for official delegations in surrounding area.
GLENEAGLES	Adequate, good quality accommodation. Able to delineate restricted area for Summit. (210 bedrooms)	Cost
BROCKET HALL	Fine setting. Close to London and Luton Airport. (26 bedrooms)	Limited accommodation
TURNBERRY	Fine setting. Good quality accommodation. (190 bedrooms)	Cost. Culzean Castle has only limited accommodation. Turnberry is up for sale.
CHEVENING	Ideal for security.	Limited accommodation for delegations, none for press.
CHEQUERS	" " "	" " "

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CABINET OFFICE
From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
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FILE
FILE No.

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

30th November 1982

1984 Economic Summit

Thank you for your letter of 26th November.

It is the Prime Minister's intention to propose that the United Kingdom should host the 1984 Economic Summit.

That being so, it is not too soon to begin thinking about the arrangements, and particularly about the venue for the Summit. The 1977 Economic Summit was held in Lancaster House and 10 Downing Street. No doubt it would be possible to follow the same pattern again but the Prime Minister would like us to look at other possibilities, and in particular possibilities outside London, where the conference could be a little more detached from the metropolitan and media pressures and distractions of London. Possibilities that occur to me are Blenheim Palace, Knole House or perhaps Oxford.

Whatever the venue, the arrangements will be elaborate and will take a good deal of time. I wonder if we ought to take a leaf out of the French and Canadian books, and nominate somebody to be in charge of the arrangements. Presumably the main input will come, as always, from the admirable Protocol and Conference Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; but the people there have to keep the current business going, and we may need some extra help for the Economic Summit.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Ken Couzens.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG, KCVO

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Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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To delete

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

26 November 1982

My dear Robert,

1984 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. It is perhaps not too early to consider whether the United Kingdom wishes to host the 1984 Economic Summit.
2. The present, second cycle of Summits has so far followed the order of the first cycle (list attached for convenience). In the normal course of events it would be the United Kingdom's turn to be host in 1984. Our partners will certainly assume this, unless we tell them to the contrary. If it is the Prime Minister's intention to propose that the United Kingdom host the 1984 Summit, there is probably no need for us to take any action with other countries at present. If it is not her intention, we ought to let the others know fairly soon.
3. You may like to consult the Prime Minister, perhaps when you report after the Personal Representatives' Meeting on 11-12 December.
4. I am copying this letter to Ken Couzens.

Yours ever
Antony

Antony Acland

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