

Ref. A084/1449

MR COLES ✓



Mr Ingham M. Coles - pl see attached
As you know, the Prime Minister
will wish to help.

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A. d. C. 17/5.

London Economic Summit

I have to report problems with the White House about the press arrangements for the London Economic Summit.

2. I saw the Minister from the United States Embassy, Mr Edward Streator, at a social function yesterday evening. He warned me that Mr Mike Deaver from the White House would be getting in touch with me by telephone about the need for improvements in the press arrangements, and he gave me an aide-memoire (copy attached) setting out what the Americans wanted. It seems to come down to more allocation for writing journalists at photo opportunities, and provision for three still photographers in all photo pool situations. Mr Streator emphasised that, apart from the considerations mentioned in the aide-memoire, the White House were no doubt concerned about press coverage for the President on an important international occasion in election year.
3. Mr Streator implied that, if more satisfactory arrangements could not be agreed at official level, the matter was likely to be taken up at the highest political level.
4. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Ingham and Mr Barrington, with a request that they should consider urgently what can be done in respect of the American demands.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 May 1984

1. We are deeply concerned that the press arrangements currently provided will result in limited and potentially negative coverage of all events of the 1984 Summit from the perspective of all participating countries.

2. Composition of press pools for each country does not adequately meet the specific and unique requirements of the White House Press Corps which, of course, contains a large proportion of journalists representing media organizations from all over the world and who report globally as well as domestically.

3. Primary Problem -- Insufficient allocation for writers/correspondents during photo opportunities. It is our experience that not providing for or restricting writers/correspondents leads directly to negative print and television reports of activities. A writer/correspondent can only report what he sees and receives from briefings. Our solution is to include a minimum number of writers/correspondents for any activity where there is press coverage containing six or more television cameramen or photographers. This would include representatives from AP, UPI, a national newspaper and magazine and radio. All other media elements are thereby represented. This would especially apply to coverage of the opening of the Summit discussions at Lancaster House when the world's attention will be glued to our nations' involvement there.

4. Photographic Coverage: Our unique situation requires three still photographers in all photo pool situations. They are AP, UPI, (who shoot black and white) and a magazine representative who shoots only color film. It is desirable for each country to be allowed one television crew during photo opportunities. This would increase coverage for all countries.

5. With the exception of the respective arrivals at Kensington Gardens, there are very few opportunities for a significant number of press from all countries to witness the particular Summit activities. We recommend that maximum space be allocated to all forms of the press for the joint statement at the Guildhall as this is the culmination of the Summit. While there is ample provision for television and stills coverage at the Guildhall, we recommend that maximum space be allocated to writers as well.

6. Our concerns have been repeatedly raised with Summit officials and with Bernard Ingham, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister. To date, we have seen no concrete movement on the part of the Summit organizers in these areas. Our recommendations are based upon last year's experience in Williamsburg, the specific requirements of our media system, and a genuine desire for a successful Summit which, of course, is communicated to the world through the media.

Ref. A084/1466

MR INGHAM

cc Mr Coles ✓
Mr Barrington

London Economic Summit: Press Arrangements

As foreshadowed, Mr Mike Deaver rang this evening.

2. He said that there was serious concern in the White House about certain aspects of the press arrangements for the London Economic Summit. These were of great significance for the President in an election year. The President's trip to China had been a great success in press terms; inevitably the Summit would not be so eye-catching, but there was a danger of falling too far behind, in ways which would attract criticism to us as well as to the White House.

3. I intervened to say that I had spoken with Mr Edward Streater in the sense described in my earlier minute, and that he had given me a note. Mr Deaver confirmed that their main concern was with the addition of writing press to the photographers on photo-call occasions and with the addition of three still photographers to the television teams. He also suggested that some other events ought to be opened up to the press to the maximum degree possible. The one example he quoted was the final ceremony at Guildhall, which he suggested should be opened up to all the press.

4. I told Mr Deaver that as a result of my conversation with Mr Streater I was already looking into these matters, and had asked for a report. I would be in touch with him again when I had it.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 May 1984