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Prime Minister

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Agree paragraph 4?

A-J-C-21/5

Ref. A084/1523

MR COLES

Yes ml

London Economic Summit: Lunch Arrangements

I shall report to the Prime Minister on the weekend's discussions at Chevening when I return to the office tomorrow. There is, however, one point which I should be grateful if you could put to the Prime Minister tonight. This is a possible change to the programme, and since the printers are starting to run off some of the documentation, time is of the essence.

2. The plenary session in the afternoon of Friday 8 June will be devoted to economic matters. We have been envisaging that Heads of State or Government might have some discussion of economic issues at their restricted meeting that morning, but if they need to deal with political issues at that meeting in the morning, the plenary session in the afternoon could be the only chance which they will have to discuss economic issues before Personal Representatives start to draft the Economic Declaration. At the plenary session, after the Prime Minister's Opening Statement, it would be logical for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to report on the discussions among Finance Ministers that morning and the previous evening. If the plenary session were to start at 2.30 pm and continue until 5.30 pm or 6.00 pm, there could be a relatively small amount of time available for discussion of a wide range of issues.

3. This raises the question how to deal with political issues, and in particular how to arrange for Foreign Ministers to report to Heads of State or Government on their discussion. Heads of State or Government are likely to discuss political issues at their dinner on Thursday 7 June and for at least part of their restricted session on the morning of 8 June. Foreign Ministers will also have been holding their separate discussions at the same time. There was a general feeling among Personal Representatives at Chevening that the best way of linking the two sets of discussions of political issues, without taking time out

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from the plenary session, would be for the Foreign Ministers to join the Heads of State or Government at lunch on Friday 8 June in Lancaster House. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could then report at that lunch in the presence of his colleagues on the discussions which they had held, and would not need to report to the plenary session. This change would be particularly welcomed, for their own domestic political reasons, by the Germans and the Italians, since it would mean that at the lunch Kohl would be accompanied by Genscher and Craxi would be accompanied by Andreotti. This change would be administratively feasible, provided that we notified the Summit Unit at once.

4. I recommend the Prime Minister to agree that we should now plan on this basis, ie:

- Heads of State or Government and Foreign Ministers to lunch together on 8 June, probably in the Gold Room at Lancaster House;
- Finance Ministers to eat on their own, in the Eagle Room;
- drinks before lunch on the Terrace or, if wet, in the State Dining Room.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Agreed mb

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

21 May 1984

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