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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

15 February 1988

*Dear Roderic,*

The Third Sherpa Meeting

Sylvia Ostry telephoned me this afternoon to say that Mario Sarcinelli had apparently supported Jacques Attali's request for a change in the date of the third Sherpa meeting. They may have spoken at the European Council in Brussels. Sarcinelli had taken it on himself to suggest that if the UK's difficulties in moving the dates arose from problems of finding accommodation, Attali might himself volunteer suitable accommodation in France. The only other reply to her recent letter on the subject had been from the Japanese who for some inscrutable reason were firmly opposed to any change of the date. I said that our position was still the same. We were firmly against any change of the date. I warned Sylvia Ostry that a question of cancellation charges would arise if we cancelled our Leeds Castle booking at this late stage. She seemed to think that Sarcinelli had suggested to Attali that the French should bear any costs which fell on us in those circumstances. We shall see!

Dr. Ostry clearly feels herself to be in some predicament and will, I suspect, be telephoning other Sherpas.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey Littler in the Treasury.

*Nigel Wicks*

N.L. WICKS

R.Q. Braithwaite, Esq., CMG,  
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