

PRIME MINISTERECONOMIC SUMMIT 1991

It will be our turn to host the Economic Summit again in 1991. The attached letter from the FCO explains that they have been reserving the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for a wide range of dates in May and June 1991: but this is becoming quite expensive, as other bookings are being turned away and compensation sought.

There are a number of points to consider:

- dates. Summits have usually been held in late May or early June but not invariably so. Two have been held in early May and next year's Summit will be in July. The main problem with 1991 is that, on past precedent, there must be quite a high probability of an election in the period May/June of that year. A commitment to a Summit then would be a complication and perhaps an unwelcome constraint. It might be best to decide here and now that we would aim for dates in early May or early July but not in the period 15 May-30 June. This would seem to leave the greatest possible flexibility;
- venue. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre was more or less purpose built for occasions such as the Summit. Should we work on the assumption that you would want to use it in preference to Lancaster House or any other venue? If the answer is yes, then we could at least narrow down the periods for which we are reserving it to 1-14 May and 1-14 July.

Agree?

C.D.?

C. D. POWELL

24 August 1988

I will have a word

with Nigel Lawson &

Crofton House

ms

ANDY

Charles.

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30 May to 8 June would probably be the best period for the Summit. Going by this year's and next year's diary it will probably clash with the recess-but the earlier period is usually full of conferences - as is the latter period. If the past is anything to go by we will be in the middle of a General Election!

Tessa

Tessa

24 August 1988



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 August 1988

N L Wicks Esq CBE  
10 Downing Street

1. No Gairman Any comments?

2. R Powell or.

*Jean N. J. J.*

*AAZ*  
*23/8*

## 1991 LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: DATE AND VENUE

1. The next Summit in London is still three years away, but your preliminary thoughts on the Prime Minister's likely preferences would help us with certain problems which have already emerged over the date and venue of this event.

2. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre is the most suitable venue - Protocol Department say the only really suitable one; it was built with such meetings in mind. We have provisionally reserved some 48 days in May and June 1991 to cover possible Summit dates: 1-22 May, 30 May-8 June, and 15-30 June 1991 (there are longstanding commercial bookings for 23-29 May and 9-14 June). But the Centre is already having to turn away competing (and lucrative) bookings for these periods, and has put us under considerable pressure to pay the opportunity cost of any cancelled reservations that it was subsequently unable to fill (and 10% of the cost of those rebooked).

3. We recognise that the PSA must operate within their Ministerial remit to operate the Centre commercially, with the objective of maximising revenue so as to minimise the net cost to the Government. We should therefore like to be helpful by reserving as short a period as feasible for the Summit. We have already assured the PSA that we shall be able to make a firm and binding booking in the summer of 1990 (since the declaration issued at one Summit usually contains agreed dates for the next). I suggest that we could also offer to release the first two weeks of May. Bearing in mind the usual 'scene-setting' meetings like the IMF/IBRD meetings and the OECD Ministerial Council that take place in the spring/early summer, a Summit in early May seems a very compressed timetable (though, as you will see from the enclosed list, Bonn 1985 and Toyko 1986 were held early in the 'season').

3. If we do release 1-14 May, that would leave us with essentially two options for an earlyish Summit, ie 15-22 May or 30 May-8 June, plus a sixteen day period in the second half of June (15-30). Do you think that this leaves the Prime Minister with sufficient flexibility over dates?



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4. We focussed on May and June as the traditional months for the annual Economic Summit. Before President Mitterand decided that next year's Summit should coincide with the Bicentary of the French Revolution, only two Summits had been held in July. I hope you are content that we have not asked the QE II Centre to reserve any dates in July; but if not could you let me know?

*Yours ever,*

*Tom*

T L Richardson  
Economic Relations Department

cc: Mr Bayne  
Sir G Littler, HMT

Rambouillet	15 - 17 Nov	1975
Puerto Rico	27 - 28 June	1976
London	6 - 8 May	1977
Bonn	16 - 17 July	1978
Tokyo	28 - 29 June	1979
Venice	22 - 23 June	1980
Ottawa	19 - 21 July	1981
Versailles	4 - 6 June	1982
Williamsburg	28 - 30 May	1983
London	7 - 9 June	1984
Bonn	2 - 4 May	1985
Tokyo	4 - 6 May	1986
Venice	8 - 10 June	1987
Toronto	19 - 21 June	1988
Paris	14 - 16 July	1989