



DA

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*From the Principal Private Secretary*

7 September 1988

*Dear Nicholas,*

✓ Since receiving Geoffrey Littler's letter of today's date about the Sherpa meeting on 8/9 October, which was copied to you, I have received a further letter from Jacques Attali about the agenda. A copy is attached.

I have to say that I regard the first two items for the agenda - tour d'horizon of the economic and political situation and first examination of themes for the 1989 Summit - as a waste of time. The first will provide an interesting chat but no more; and the second is premature. Nevertheless, I should be grateful to know from you and Geoffrey Littler, to whom I am copying this letter, points that you think that I might make under these two items.

As regards the third item, the dates for the Sherpa's meetings, I really wonder whether we need four meetings. Is it normal for there to be four meetings in addition to the first "Sherpas only" meeting? As for their dates, the meeting suggested for 21-22 January might clash with the Treasury's Chevening discussion. I would be glad to know whether Geoffrey has any more news of time of that discussion and whether he would regard it as essential to avoid 21-22 January. The meeting suggested for 18-19 March could, I suggest, be the weekend immediately preceding the Budget. I assume that for that reason he would wish me to argue against it, but in the last resort would he regard this date as unacceptable? Finally on the dates of the meetings, could you confirm that the main meeting follows the OECD Ministerial meeting?

The fourth item on the agenda will I assume provide an opportunity for the French to explain Summit arrangements.

✓ I am sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey Littler.

*Nigel Wicks*

(N.L. WICKS) —

Nicholas Bayne, Esq., C.M.G.