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From the Principal Private Secretary

4 October 1988

Dea Steph,

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1989 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

I am writing to record the Prime Minister's comments on my minute of 29 September about the meeting of Sherpas in Paris on 8/9 October.

The Prime Minister is strongly of the view that four Sherpa meetings in preparation for the next Summit are exhorbitant and that three should be ample.

As regards the themes for the Summit, the Prime Minister believes that the most important is to maintain progress with the "second seven year approach"; that is, to carry on into the third cycle of Summits the successful policies which were endorsed in the second cycle and which were referred to in the Toronto Summit communiqué. In this context, it will be important for the Summit to have a good discussion of the Uruguay round, agriculture and the fight against protection. The Prime Minister believes too that aid and debt questions as well as environmental measures might well feature prominently at the Summit.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Nijel Wicks

Stephen Wall, Esq. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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