

PC/PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I prefer the
Conference Centre
not

27 April 1989

Rime Roster
Do you prefer the
QE II Centre or
Lancaster House?

Dear Charles,

UK Economic Summit 1991

In your letter of 7 ^(FEAL) September 1988 you recorded the agreement of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary that we consider sites outside London for the UK Summit in 1991. We have made a very thorough trawl of possible sites throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

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The Foreign Secretary was particularly keen that we should be able to hold the Summit outside London. However, after considering all the alternatives, he has reluctantly reached the conclusion that London is, after all, the only feasible option. The Summit is simply such a large affair now; we can expect in the region of 4,000 press, and at the Toronto Summit last year the US delegation alone ran to 775 people. Nowhere outside London can offer all of the facilities required, taking into account security and other essential considerations.

There are various possible combinations of locations in London for Summit events. The conference itself could either be held in the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, with press facilities in the nearby Horticultural Halls, which are being refurbished; or in Lancaster House, as in 1984, leaving the Queen Elizabeth II Centre for the press. We already have reserve bookings for the last two of these and could book the Horticultural Halls if the first option is chosen. We shall also make a point of offering an imaginative selection of places for meals for the Summit leaders.

The Foreign Secretary very much hopes that, on future occasions, we shall be able to find somewhere outside the capital for major conferences like this. We are constantly on the lookout for potentially suitable sites. Birmingham, for example, has plans to build an impressive conference centre. But with a scheduled opening date of April 1991, only one month before the first of our two sets of dates, it would be too risky to plan to hold the Summit there.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allen (HMT) and Trevor Woolley.

Jaw,
Stephe Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Economic Policy Pt 27

London Economic Summit 1991

