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8 May 1990

Miss J M F Buchan
Senior Finance Officer
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Dear Miss Buchan,

1991 LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. You kindly copied me your letter of 30 April to Edwards at the Treasury about provision for the 1991 London Economic Summit (not 1992, incidentally).

2. Other considerations aside, this year's PES round is already so advanced that it is now neither reasonable nor possible to look to the FCO to take on responsibility for the relevant PES bid. Our expectation has been that OMCS would make the provisional bid, as it did in 1988, and it is now only practical for OMCS to see the process through. The FCO will of course be involved with the day-to-day detail of Summit arrangements, and we stand ready to provide as much factual input as we can. To this end we will try to let you have within the next week or two the best possible indicative estimates for expenditure on events which are our concern, if that would be helpful. With detailed preparation yet to start, the figures will inevitably be provisional. They will be refined as the FCO special unit for the Summit (to be set up progressively from July) gets down to detailed planning. This is no different in principle to the process followed for the 1984 Summit.

3. Incidentally, we are not convinced by your argument that since the OMCS does not administer the Summit, OMCS should not be responsible for the PES bid. And Nigel Wicks' role as Sherpa, responsible directly to the Prime Minister, is quite separate from his role as a senior Treasury official. There is no justification for changing past practice whereby the Summit, as a Prime Ministerial event, is funded through your Department.

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4. I am copying this to Brian Fox and Peter Mountfield in the Treasury, and to Peter Kemp at the OMCS.

Yours sincerely

D E S Blatherwick

D E S Blatherwick