

HM Treasury



Parliament Street
London SW1P 3AG
Telephone 01 270 4410

B M Fox
Principal Establishment and
Finance Officer

Miss J M E Buchan
Senior Finance Officer
Finance Division
Cabinet Office
Horse Guards Avenue
London SW1

10 May 1990

Dear J M E

1991 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

- with CAS?

Thank you for your letter of 30 April to John Edwards about which we subsequently spoke.

As I told you, whilst appreciating your own worries about accountability, I do not think mine would be any easier if we agreed to take on this responsibility. I would certainly be in no better position than you to assess the cost implications of FCO advice on physical arrangements or the requirements of protocol. In our view the expenditure should follow Ministerial responsibility - in this case the Prime Minister. She, and not the Chancellor, will, I assume, approve the arrangements on which the expenditure turns.

As regards the Sherpa role, Mr Wicks' appointment is purely personal and is, in any event, concerned with facilitating the business to be conducted. He has no role in deciding physical arrangements. I was interested to see, incidentally, that you have picked up the bill for some of his expenditure. I should be glad to know the details because most of the travel costs in connection with his Sherpa role have been borne by us, as a matter of convenience. It occurs to me that whatever the right home for this particular element of expenditure, we ought at least to ensure that it is treated consistently.

Returning to the main expenditure on the Summit itself, I do rather feel that, despite the problems, the expenditure is already in the right home and is properly accounted for with the Prime Minister's other costs.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours
Bon

B FOX

cc Mr Kemp OMCS
Mr Wicks HM Treasury
Miss Peirson HM Treasury
Mr Blatherwick FCO, Central Buildings
Mr Chase FCO, Central Buildings
Miss Slocock No 10

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