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Prime Minister
It would be helpful
if you could annotate
this with your views. Most
of the proposals seem

15 November 1990

Very clearly
eminently sensible.

CDP 16/11/90

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

I am writing to seek the Prime Minister's guidance on some format and organisational aspects of next year's London Economic Summit. Some suggestions are set out in the preliminary draft programme at Annex A. They are based on the assumption that the Prime Minister wants a workman-like occasion with the emphasis on the discussion of serious issues rather than on pageantry and show. Does the Prime Minister agree this approach? Should she require something more elaborate, we can put forward proposals to meet this.

Some particular points on the programme at Annex A are:

(i) The Greeting Arrangements

The Japanese, Americans and Canadians are likely to arrive in London before or over the weekend but some of the Europeans may well prefer to travel on the Monday morning: particularly the French as the Sunday is 14 July. We therefore think it best not to press the other leaders to arrive early by arranging a formal programme for the Sunday. To allow time for the last delegations to arrive on the Monday morning, we propose that the Prime Minister should first greet each delegation Head in turn, with due protocol but minimum ceremonial, at the entrance to Lancaster House before the opening session of talks. Does the Prime Minister agree?

Yes

A Personal Representative of The Queen and an FCO Minister would also meet the leaders at the airport, with special regard to the status of Presidents Mitterrand and Bush. In 1984 the Prime Minister held rather more elaborate greeting ceremonies at Kensington Palace but then most delegations arrived the day before the conference started as it was not a weekend. As an alternative we could, if she so wished, adopt the Houston practice and mount a more formal opening ceremony at which the Prime Minister could

make a short speech of welcome near to Lancaster House. But this would take more time and may not be consistent with the primary objective of a working occasion. We are assuming that the Prime Minister would not wish to do this. Is this right? *Yes*

(ii) Possible Association of Soviet Union with the Summit

mk There is another reason for keeping the Sunday free and the Monday programme simple. I am minuting separately on how we might follow up the reference in the Prime Minister's Aspen speech to associating the Soviet Union with the Summit. Although uncertainty about developments in the Soviet Union makes it preferable to delay a final decision on this as long as possible, we clearly need to have the likely organisational implications in mind in constructing the programme. The option recommended in my separate minute - luncheon on Monday 15 July for President Gorbachev and Summit Heads - would be the most amenable to a late decision, since it could be fitted into the programme as proposed above with a minimum of disruption and without unduly adding to the Summit's length. But it would mean some juggling with the arrangements for the Monday. A possible programme to take account of a Gorbachev lunch and the time needed for him to give a possible joint press Conference with the Prime Minister before she arrives at Lancaster House to greet the Summit leaders is at Annex B. Does the Prime Minister have any first thoughts on this sort of arrangement if President Gorbachev comes?

(iii) Meals etc

Yes I suggest we follow the normal precedent of holding three separate working dinners on the first evening. There are a number of attractive potential venues but I see a good case for arranging for all the dinners in the same area. The Tower of London has enough suitable rooms and it would make a most striking venue. It should be possible to arrange a private viewing for the guests of the Crown Jewels and/or the Ceremony of the Keys if so desired. Would the Prime Minister like us to plan on this basis?

Yes We envisage that the separate working lunches on the second day, Tuesday, would be held in or close as possible to Lancaster House. As for the NATO Summit we shall again be able to use both Spencer and Bridgewater Houses. These will provide attractive settings for all the lunches and for joint pre-lunch drinks. Does the Prime Minister agree?

I understand that The Queen favours a relatively small dinner at Buckingham Palace on the Tuesday evening, 16 July. This would be held in the Bow Room which has, I understand, a capacity of just over 60. This could well mean that it will not be possible to include wives of visiting Ministers other than those who are accompanying Heads of Delegations. However, I would hope that all will be able to attend. After the dinner it is proposed that The Queen should take her guests on to the terrace to watch a 30-40 minute entertainment. The organisation is in the hands of Major Parker who mounts the Royal Tournament and also handled the celebrations for The Queen Mother's 90th birthday. The show would be based on traditional military pageantry but he hopes to introduce some lighter and more modern touches. Although this

will be a Palace affair, we will have a chance to influence its shape.

The entertainment at the Palace will not provide an opportunity for the people of London, who bear the brunt of the traffic hold-ups on such an occasion, to derive some enjoyment from the Summit. It is likely that the show could be televised live but this is not quite the same thing. The only opportunity for a more public event would be on the evening of Sunday 14 July. As already explained, the difficulty with this is that it is unlikely that all delegations will have arrived by then. Nevertheless it would be still be open to the Prime Minister to put on an entertainment, probably following a dinner, for delegation members already in London and for other invited guests (possibly including President Gorbachev), which the people of London could also enjoy. Having regard to both cost and visibility for the public, this would probably have to take the form of a fireworks display over the Thames watched by the VIP group either from the Palace of Westminster or possibly from Greenwich. My own view is that such an additional event is unnecessary and there could be some risk of carping comments and suggestions of a boycott if the Prime Minister held a function which was not attended by all, or nearly all visiting Heads of Government. Does the Prime Minister agree?

Not necessary at all

The one obvious omission from the programme, as now set out, is any occasion for the Prime Minister to meet and to entertain members of delegations other than the Heads of Government. The natural slot for a Reception would be the Sunday evening - in line with what happened in 1984 - but unfortunately the value of such an occasion would be much reduced if only a few of our visitors were in London in time to attend. With Monday evening occupied by a working dinner and the Buckingham Palace dinner on Tuesday the one opportunity might be to insert a short informal reception for delegates between their arrival at Lancaster House on the Monday and the first session of talks. However, this would not be easy to accommodate if President Gorbachev is to meet the Summit leaders and it would in any case mean an earlier departure for delegates from their hotels. So unless the Prime Minister particularly wishes us to reconsider a more general reception, I believe that this should not be included in the programme.

If there are several Heads in London on Sunday evening, we could have dinner at No. 10.

as informed
(iv) Presentation of Joint Declaration

One aspect of the arrangements which might be improved compared to the 1984 Summit is the presentation of the Final Communique. In 1984 the presentation was in the Guildhall. Next year it would be even more difficult to ensure the smooth and rapid transfer of the delegates, not to mention the press corps, through London's traffic to the City. We therefore think that the final act of the Summit should also take place as close as possible to Lancaster House. The choice lies between the Churchill auditorium (which seats around 900) at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre or Westminster Hall. This will, of course, not be a public occasion and in practice many of the journalists would be content to watch the event on closed circuit TV. We therefore think we should opt for the QEII Centre provided that the auditorium is not required as part of the working area for the media. At the moment we are looking at ways of avoiding the use of a marquee in Green Park for

Yes

the press as was done at the NATO Summit. But since we expect a larger media contingent this time, the only way to provide proper facilities for all of them at the QEII Centre may be at the penalty of having to deliver the Communique elsewhere. I therefore propose that our first choice for this should be the QEII Centre but that if this proves impossible, we may have look again at Westminster Hall (though there are obvious Parliamentary sensitivities in using this venue which have given the Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary some pause for thought). Would the Prime Minister be content with our working on the basis that the Declaration would be read in the QEII Centre?

(v) Summit Cost and Sponsorship

The Budget allocation for the Summit over the two financial years is £4.33 million. This estimate of needs was based on updated 1984 costs and is considerably less than we understand to have been spent on the last two Summits in Paris and Houston. We shall make every effort, without sacrificing quality, to contain expenditure within this figure but the need to pay for any extra major function or "spectacular" would probably require some additional funds. So too would a custom-built media centre in Green Park.

Yes

Both to reduce costs, and to be able to show that we have done so, we are urgently investigating the scope for commercial sponsorship. This was accepted, within clearly defined guidelines for the 1984 Summit but the results were patchy. With their rather different culture the Americans raised nearly half the cost of the Houston Summit, mainly through gifts in kind. Whilst we cannot expect to secure support on that scale I hope that the Prime Minister can agree that we should proceed on the same basis as 1984? Does the Prime Minister agree?

If so, a targeting strategy will be drawn up concentrating on opportunities where British industry could be associated with the Summit by demonstrating the best of its products, services and technology. We have identified the provision of cars, office equipment and sophisticated communications equipment, either free or at cost, as the most promising areas for the efficient running of the conference. In addition we will be looking for some commercial support with gifts for the visitors, the facilities for the media and the provision of free food and drink for the journalists, all of which have become traditional at these summits. Whilst it will not be easy to match the lavish hospitality extended to the media in Houston, we have to be sure that their reasonable needs are adequately met.

Yes

It was evident in 1984 that one of the more attractive inducements for companies to give their support was the personal recognition by the Prime Minister that this brought with it by means of an invitation to her reception at St James's Palace. As things now stand there will be no comparable function next year. It would therefore be a nice touch, which I know would be widely appreciated, if the Prime Minister was able to agree to give a somewhat smaller reception a few days after the event for those involved in the Summit. We envisage that the Chairman or Chief Executives of companies which had contributed or been particularly

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helpful would be invited together with some of the officials who had borne the brunt of the preparatory work. Would the Prime Minister agree to this?

(vi) Meetings of Personal Representatives

I plan to reduce by two the number of Sherpa meetings compared with the American series. But a lot will depend on how discussions develop. The meetings will be held in or near London except that I would like to maintain the tradition of holding one of the Sherpa meetings outside the host country as a courtesy to the non-Europeans, particularly the Japanese, who have to travel long distance to attend. One possibility here is to hold a Sherpa meeting in Hong Kong. I believe there would be some longer term benefit from exposing such a group of senior officials from Foreign Offices and Treasuries to the vibrancy and commercial success of Hong Kong. They will then have a first hand appreciation of the value of preserving such assets up to and beyond 1997. We have consulted both HM Ambassador in Peking and the Governor. They see few political risks in using Hong Kong for a meeting of this kind and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is also content. Certainly there would be some extra costs, mainly the fares of UK participants which we will keep to the very minimum. But the extra costs are, I think, worthwhile if they help to increase the awareness in G7 capitals of supporting the prosperity of Hong Kong in the years to come. Would the Prime Minister also agree that it would be worthwhile to hold a Sherpa meeting in the Colony next May?

Yes
very good

I am copying this minute to Stephen Wall in the Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary's Office, John Gieve in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Office and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Thus only
Nigel*

N L WICKS

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ANNEX A

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: PRELIMINARY OUTLINE PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 14 JULY

AM & PM Delegations arrive (greeted at airport by Queen's Representative and Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of State or other Foreign Office Minister)

Evening FREE (but available for Reception given by Prime Minister, possibly followed by entertainment/spectacular)

MONDAY 15 JULY

Early AM Remaining delegations arrive

1300 Prime Minister arrives at Lancaster House

1315-1345 Prime Minister greets Summit leaders in reverse order of protocol

Prime Minister meets each delegate on arrival at front door of Lancaster House and escorts them through a Carpet Lining Party (Horseguards - dismounted) to main hall/State Dining room where coffee and drinks will be available. Prime Minister returns to front door to meet next arrival. After greeting President Mitterrand Prime Minister escorts him in and remains in the main hall/State Dining Room

1350 Mingle in main hall or State Dining Room

1405 Official photograph (Heads and Ministers, on staircase of main hall or terrace of State Dining Room)

1415 Separate Head of Delegation and Ministerial meetings (preceded by Plenary Session if required)

1700 Meetings conclude

1705 Group photograph (Heads only)

1710 Prime Minister bids farewell to delegates in protocol order

2000-2030 Separate working dinners either at 3 different venues or all at the Tower (Sherpas to dine near Heads of Delegation)

Later Sherpas return to Lancaster House to draft Political Declaration

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TUESDAY 16 JULY

0930 Meeting of Heads of Government with Foreign Ministers to agree Political Declaration then Plenary Session

1230 Session ends

1245 Pre-lunch drinks at Lancaster House or Spencer House

1300 Separate luncheons (3 + Sherpas) at Bridgewater and Spencer Houses

1430 Plenary meeting resumes

1630 Session ends

1635 Farewells by Prime Minister

1645 (or earlier if necessary) Secretary of State gives Political Declaration Press Conference at QEII or Westminster Hall

2000 for
2030 State Dinner at Buckingham Palace (black tie; no speeches) followed later (2200 hrs) by entertainment in Palace grounds

(Note: Heads of delegations, their spouses and visiting Ministers (but perhaps not their spouses) would be invited to dinner whilst other senior delegation officials would be invited to the entertainment only.)

Evening Sherpas draft Joint Declaration

WEDNESDAY 17 JULY

0845/0900 Plenary session to agree Summit Declaration

1100 Meeting concludes
Interval in Holding rooms (allowing time for printing of Declaration)

1120-1140 Farewells by Prime Minister in reverse protocol order
1130-1150 Delegates arrive at QEII (or Westminster Hall) in reverse protocol order and are met by the Prime Minister. Mingle over drinks (with spouses)

c.1200 Reading of Summit Declaration by Prime Minister

Later Heads of Delegation leave for national press conferences

END OF SUMMIT

Later that week? Thank you reception given by Prime Minister

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ANNEX B

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME FOR
14-15 JULY IF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV IS INVOLVED

SUNDAY 14 JULY

AM & PM Summit Delegations arrive

AM/PM Bilateral meetings between Prime Minister and
President Gorbachev (at Chequers)

Evening Free or available for Prime Minister's reception for
Summit delegations. And with President Gorbachev
invited, followed by either dinner for Summit leaders
(for debriefing on Gorbachev bilaterals) or
entertainment for visiting delegations

MONDAY 15 JULY

AM Remaining delegations arrive at Heathrow/Northolt
Possible further round of bilaterals with
President Gorbachev and possible joint press conference
by Prime Minister and the President

1145 Prime Minister arrives at Lancaster House

1155-1230 Prime Minister separately greets each delegate at
5 minute intervals in reverse order of protocol

1230-1245 Mingle over drinks either in Lancaster House or on
terrace of Bridgewater or Spencer Houses

1245 Separate lunches (Summit Heads and President Gorbachev,
Foreign Ministers and Finance/Economic Ministers) at
Lancaster/Bridgewater/Spencer

1415 Lunches finish followed by group photograph of Summit
leaders (and Soviet President?)
Prime Minister bids farewell to President Gorbachev

OPENING OF SUMMIT

1430 Separate Head of Delegation and Ministerial meetings
(preceded by Plenary Session if required)

c.1700 Meetings conclude

1705 Group photograph (Heads only)

1710 Prime Minister bids farewell to Summit delegates in
protocol order

2000-2030 Separate working dinners either at 3 different venues
or all at the Tower (Sherpas to dine near Heads of
Delegation)

Later Sherpas return to Lancaster House to draft Political
Declaration