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cc: [signature]



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 January 1988

Dear Charles

Economic Summit: Organisation

The Foreign Secretary has seen your letter of 15 January enclosing one from Mr Mulroney. He has also noted the Prime Minister's comments contained in your second letter of 18 January. *at flap* *will NKW*

He agrees with the Prime Minister that an earlier start on the day of arrival would be undesirable. The bilaterals are important, and time must be found for them. He dislikes the idea of a 'retreat' for Heads of Government outside the conference centre. The Summit lasts less than 48 hours and a separate venue would be a messy and time-consuming complication. He thinks the economic agenda this year will be particularly important. It is a fact of life, however, that political issues tend to intrude at Summits, often when least expected. Whatever we say now, there is not much we can do about it.

He is inclined to favour plenaries at the first session (when the scene is usually set with opening statements) and at the final session on the last day (when the communique is discussed and approved). But he sees some advantage in separate sessions on the afternoon of the first full day. He would have plenty to talk about with his colleagues; and he imagines the same goes for the Chancellor, especially if Finance Ministers, as at Tokyo and Venice, are asked to contribute to the working of the draft communique on issues like imbalances. Moreover, he suspects that the Prime Minister will make more impact on people like Kohl, when discussing German economic policy, if he does not have Stoltenberg at his side to prompt him.

We therefore agree that we should urge the retention of the existing formula.

Yours ever

[Signature]

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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20 January 1988

Charles Powell Esq
No.10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Charles,

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: ORGANISATION

FILE WITH NW

Thank you for copying to me your letters to Tony Galsworthy of 15 and 18 January.

The Chancellor shares the Prime Minister's reactions and preference for keeping to the usual formula. With what could well be a wide-ranging economic agenda, he would also see advantage in the opportunity the usual formula provides for Finance Ministers to have both the separate dinner on the first night and a few hours together on the following morning before the Plenary tackles details of the economic agenda.

I am copying this letter to Tony Galsworthy.

*Yours
Alec*

A C S ALLAN
Principal Private
Secretary

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