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SUBJECT a MASTER  
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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T12C/88

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 January 1988

Dear Brian.

Thank you for your letter dated 12 January about the arrangements for the Economic Summit in Toronto. It was thoughtful of you to give me a chance to comment on them before you reach a firm view. I absolutely agree with you that we must give priority to economic issues.

I find it very useful and convivial to have the first meeting of Heads of Government as a dinner, which can go on quite late if needs be. In my experience, we always manage to get down to the issues very quickly. Moreover this has the advantage of leaving time on the first day for bilaterals, which are an essential part of our meeting. For the rest, I favour plenaries on the morning of the first day and at the final session, with separate meetings of Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers and Finance Ministers on the afternoon of the second day. I would be very much against trying to move this meeting to a separate venue which is what your suggestion of a retreat implies. It would simply use up valuable time.

In short my strong preference is to stick to the traditional format for these meetings. I would have

difficulty in particular with the idea of an earlier start.

I look forward very much to seeing you at the NATO Summit in March. Meanwhile Denis joins me in sending warm regards to you and your wife.

Yours ever

Raymond

---

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, M.P.



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*File to  
#972 B Whit*



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

25 January, 1988.

**ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN TORONTO**

I enclose the Prime Minister's reply to Mr. Mulroney's recent letter about the organisation of the Economic Summit. I should be grateful if it could be telegraphed to Ottawa for delivery today.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Alex Allan (HM Treasury).

(C.D. Powell)

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Wicks

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

You owe Mr Mulroney a reply to his message (attached) about the organisation of the Economic Summit. I have consulted the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor and suggest you reply in the terms of the attached letter.

"Dear Brian".

CDP

Charles Powell

22 January 1988

MJ2BWM



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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

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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call

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

18 January 1988

*From the Private Secretary*

**ECONMIC SUMMIT: ORGANISATION**

I wrote to you on 15 January about Mr. Mulroney's letter dealing with the organisation of the Toronoto Economic Summit.

The Prime Minister has seen the letter and has commented that she prefers the first meeting of Heads of Government to be over dinner on the first evening. In her experience this gets the Summit off to a relaxed start, and the dinner can of course go on quite late if needs be. Moreover, this leaves time for bilaterals on the first day, which are an important part of the meeting. She would not, therefore, favour the earlier start proposed by Mr. Mulroney.

Other points on which she has commented are:

- she welcomes the intention to concentrate on economic issues
- she would not object to one session of informal talks among Heads of Government (in addition to dinner on the first evening) but would not want to see Heads of Government taken off to some separate venue for this.

The Prime Minister's preference therefore is to abide by the existing formula for Summits.

You and Alex Allan, to whom I am copying this letter, will wish to take these points into account when consulting the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor.

(C. D. POWELL)

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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He Mum  
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PC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

15 January 1988

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Mulroney about the organisation of the Economic Summit in Toronto in June. I shall be grateful for any views which the Foreign Secretary may have about this before putting it to the Prime Minister. It would be helpful to have a reply by the latter part of next week.

I am also copying this letter to Alex Allan at the Treasury with a request for the Chancellor's views.

C. D. Powell

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

I attach a letter from Mr. Mulroney about the organisation of the next Economic Summit. In essence he proposes a slightly different format, with more emphasis on informal discussion (although it is not clear whether this involves leaving Toronto to go to a retreat). In summary he proposes:

First Day

- welcoming ceremonies in the morning
- retreat/informal meeting of Heads of Government in the afternoon
- usual Heads of Government dinner. Discussion of political issues

Second Day

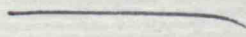
- plenary in the morning
- further plenary or 'retreat sessions' in the afternoon
- working dinner (either Heads of Government alone or all together)

Third Day

- plenary in the morning to discuss communiqué
- lunch
- reading of communiqué and press conferences
- departure

The only really new feature is the earlier start on the first day, and the addition of the 'retreat session' on the first and/or second afternoon.

I doubt that you will feel very strongly about this. But you are normally a proponent of shorter rather than longer meetings; and there must be some risk that discussion will simply expand to fill the time available without any extra substance. Moreover if 'retreat sessions' mean decamping from





the Summit venue it will only make the occasion more cumbersome.

I have asked for the Foreign Secretary's and Chancellor's views. Subject to that your response might be on the lines:

- you welcome the intention to concentrate on economic issues; ✓
- you would be content with one session of informal talks; ✓
- but you would not want this to involve moving any distance away from the Summit site; ✓
- the informal session might therefore be on the afternoon of the second day ;
- you see no need for an earlier start. ✓ The first event should be the dinner on the first day (this would enable you to travel from London on the day of the summit itself). ✓

Agree?

CDP

Charles Powell  
15 January 1988

JALBPX

I find it very useful and convenient to have the first meeting of the G6 as a dinner when we can go on with quite late issues very quickly. In other words I think the press formula has served us well. It also leaves time for bitchings - another essential part of the meeting is