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BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION  
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From the High Commissioner

29 April 1988

C D Powell Esq  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
No. 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister  
Would you like  
to pursue any, or  
all, of these  
possibilities while you  
are in Toronto?

Dear Charles,

TORONTO G7 SUMMIT

1. I am writing to you separately today about my meeting yesterday with Conrad Black concerning the arrangements for the dinner he is giving in honour of the Prime Minister on the evening of Tuesday 21 June in Toronto.
2. While we do not yet have a firm timetable for the various events during the Summit meeting, may I put to you one or two entirely personal suggestions about things which the Prime Minister might possibly wish to do should time allow? The locations are very near the King Edward Hotel where she will be staying and could easily be fitted in at very short notice if necessary.
3. First of all, there is a formal invitation to her from the Dean of the (Anglican) Cathedral Church of St James to attend the service at St James' Cathedral at 11.00 am on Sunday 19 June, to which our Consul-General Bryan Sparrow has given a non-committal, albeit discouraging, reply (copies enclosed).
4. Secondly, knowing of the Prime Minister's interest in porcelain, I enclose a catalogue of the George R Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art in Toronto. It is a uniquely splendid collection which covers not only European 18th century porcelain but also pre-Columbian pottery and Maiolica. The Museum is, incidentally, to hold a major exhibition of Crown Derby later in the year (I shall be attending the opening).
5. Thirdly, Lord Thomson of Fleet (or Ken Thomson as he prefers to be known here) has in his magnificent offices in Toronto the finest existing collection of paintings (about 120 of them) by Cornelius Kriehoff giving a marvellous portrayal of Canadian life a century or more ago and the unbelievably harsh conditions in which the early settlers lived. Apart from the Kriehoffs, Ken Thomson also has some medieval ivories and other fine antiques. Assuming he is in town at the time, I know it would give him the greatest pleasure

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/ to show the Prime Minister over the collection. I enclose a catalogue he gave me of the Krieghoffs, but I must stress that the reproductions do not do justice to the quality of the paintings on display: they have a Pieter Breughel quality and I had one of the best hours of my life being shown over his collections by Ken Thomson recently.

6. I do not think there is any need to take an early decision on all this, although of course the sooner we know the more sure we can be that the right arrangements can be put in place. But at worst we could probably arrange it all sur place while the Conference is going on.

7. I do hope you will not think it presumptuous on my part to make these suggestions, but the Gardiner Museum and the Ken Thomson collection are the two things I have enjoyed most in Toronto so far and I thought that you might wish to be aware of their existence. I enclose an extra copy of this letter in case you wish to pass it to Sheila Waghorn in the FCO Protocol Department.

*Yours wv,  
Alan*

A B Urwick