



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 June 1984

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing street

Dear John,

*ALG
h-a.*

SUMMIT: LOAN OF SUTHERLAND PAINTING

1. Visitors for the summit will be interested in the history of Lancaster House. As the Prime Minister will know, it was built for the Duke of York, but it was occupied during most of the last century by three generations of Dukes of Sutherland, who made it the centre of a glittering, and enlightened, social circle.
2. Alerted by a reproduction in a book on London given me for Christmas, I managed to track down a painting of Lancaster House as it used to be in its heyday. It belongs to the Countess of Sutherland, who has kindly agreed to loan it to Lancaster House during the Summit period.
3. We have brought it down from her castle, Dunrobin, in Scotland and set it on an easel near the position from which it was originally painted.
4. The picture was painted in 1849 by Eugene Lami. It shows the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, together with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who were close friends), receiving on the main staircase, surrounded by Victorian high society.
5. The Sutherland inheritance has been divided between the Countess and the Duke, who lives in a castle in Lowland Scotland. Unfortunately the Countess is out of the country in June and therefore cannot accept the invitation to St James's Palace.

*Yours sincerely,
Nicholas*

N J Barrington

copy to: Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
Cabinet Office
PS/FCO
PS/Chancellor of the exchequer
Dr Wendy Baron, Office of Arts and Libraries



Mr Coles

In answer to the Prime Minister's enquiry the Custodian of Lancaster House has now been able to confirm that the crest in the Music Room is indeed that of the Sutherland family.

Richard Escritt

R E Escritt

8 June 1984