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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Sir Robert Armstrong

Life Sciences Conference to be Hosted by France

Your minute of 25 January put forward nominations to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom the Life Sciences Conference to be held in France on 18-22 April.

The Prime Minister has asked whether we do not have any distinguished ladies who could go, for instance Lady Warnock herself.

I should be grateful for a view on this point.

BF 11

eP

28 January, 1985.

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①  
CDP

Prime Minister  
Agree to  
proposed nominations?  
CDP  
25/1

There is no  
doubt I wish ladies  
who could go -  
Lady Warnock  
herself?  
mid

Ref. A085/259  
PRIME MINISTER

Life Sciences Conference to be Hosted by France 18-22 April 1985

President Mitterrand has approached you and other Heads of State or Government from the Economic Summit Countries, requesting nominations of prospective participants at the second Life Sciences Conference, to be hosted by France. As with the first such conference, hosted by Japan, the request is for you to name three prominent figures concerned with science, medicine, ethics or philosophy, who will be then invited to attend as independent members of the Conference.

2. I have consulted Sir Robin Nicholson, who prepared the nominations for the Japanese conference, and he recommends that you include two out of the three who attended on behalf of the United Kingdom on the last occasion, namely Dr Sydney Brenner FRS (Director of the MRC Molecular Biology Laboratory in Cambridge) and Sir Stuart Hampshire (scientist and philosopher, ex-Warden of Wadham College, Oxford). Each made a significant and highly appreciated contribution to the Japanese conference, and, I understand, would welcome further involvement. For the third nomination, I wish to propose Sir Robin Nicholson himself. The ethical problems surrounding experiments on animals and on human embryos are increasingly becoming matters of public concern and possibly of Government legislation. Sir Robin's secretariat has already been called upon to advise on the issues raised by the Warnock Report. The forthcoming Conference provides an excellent opportunity for getting up to date on international thinking in this matter.

--- 3. I attach a draft reply to President Mitterrand.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

25 January 1985