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cc/cf



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister  
Agree to this  
imaginative idea?

29 April 1986

Dear Charles,

CDP, 9/4

Are you sure  
it works well?

Tokyo Economic Summit: Bilateral with Mr Nakasone

Although chess has for some time been available as a computer game, Japanese chess, or shogi, has so far defied the ingenuity of soft-ware experts. Recently, however, a British team have successfully achieved this objective, although (so they say) in a relatively unsophisticated form. The headquarters of International Shogi is in London and the British President has offered to present Mrs Thatcher with a copy of the computer game to give to the Japanese Prime Minister during the Economic Summit.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should take up this offer. The computer game could be handed over in Tokyo at the start of Mrs Thatcher's bilateral with Mr Nakasone. We believe that it would get the meeting off to a good start - Mr Nakasone is a player of the game and the Japanese Embassy (who are in the picture) have said that they would arrange for appropriate publicity. As well as pleasing Mr Nakasone and a wider Japanese public (as showing sensitivity for one of the traditional Japanese games) it would also serve to show that British soft-ware is still the best.

There would be no cost to HMG, and the package is about 30 centimetres square.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

CF.  
I have agreed with  
the FCO that they will  
bring it to Tokyo.  
No-one knows whether it  
will work, since there is a  
shortage of Shogi players in the FCO.  
CDP





CONFIDENTIAL

CDP 575

PS/Prime Minister

cc: Mr Meyer  
Mr Pinnell  
PS/Secretary of State  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Braithwaite  
Ambassador  
Mr Hodge

SHCGI GAME

1. We understand the Prime Minister is considering giving a computerised shoji game as gift to Mr Nakasone at her meeting with him on 6 May.
2. This is just to let you know that the game, on arrival, proved to be defective. Our Embassy's Communications Officer examined it and has been in touch with the engineer who made the hardware. In the next 24 hours he will do what he can to rectify the fault if possible, but for the time being I am afraid that it looks unlikely that the Prime Minister will be able to present this gift.
3. It is important that this story should not reach the ears of the press.
4. I will let you know if there is any better news.

*S J Gomersall*

4 May 1986

S J Gomersall

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PP TOKYO  
FM FCOLN TO TOKYO  
091130Z APR  
GRS 146

*Yes.  
OK  
X1 I hope to  
agree - I  
agreed I told  
them nos. ....  
OK*

RESTRICTED  
FM FCO  
TO PRIORITY TOKYO  
TELNO 286  
OF 091130Z APRIL 86

FROM CONFERENCE SECTION, PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT  
PARA 10 OF FITTON'S TELELETTER OF 7 APRIL:  
ECONOMIC SUMMIT: GIFTS

*X1*

1. THE MFA'S INFORMATION THAT PRIME MINISTER NAKSONE PLANS TO GIVE A SMALL GIFT TO THE HEAD OF DELEGATION, MINISTERS AND POSSIBLY THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IS IN LINE WITH NORMAL PRACTICE AT ECONOMIC SUMMITS. IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR VISITING DELEGATES TO OFFER GIFTS IN RETURN (CF WILLIAMSBURG, LONDON, BONN) AND WE DO NOT (NOT) PROPOSE TO DO SO ON THIS OCCASION ALTHOUGH TOKEN GIFTS WILL OF COURSE BE BROUGHT FOR, EG LIAISON OFFICERS, SECURITY PERSONNEL, DRIVERS.
2. GRATEFUL YOU EXPLAIN POSITION TO YOUR COLLEAGUES.

HOWE

OCMIAN 8501

COPIES TO

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MAIN  
LIMITED  
PROTOCOL  
ER D  
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PS

*PS/SIR ARMSTRONG,  
CABINET OFFICE*

*MRS RYDER, No 10 95*

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