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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 November 1983

Dear John,

N.S.P.N.

AR 4/11

1984 Economic Summit

Thank you for sending us a copy of your minute of 31 October to Sir Robert Armstrong.

The Foreign Secretary agrees that Sir Robert Armstrong should explore further with the French whether the attendance of the Prime Minister and President Reagan at a suitable anniversary celebration of the D-Day landings would make the dates proposed for the 1984 Economic Summit more acceptable to President Mitterand.

Sir Geoffrey also thought that the views of HM Ambassador Bonn should be sought at this stage. Without having consulted the Germans, Sir J Taylor considers that if the occasion is celebrated in a spirit of remembrance and reconciliation, preferably with some German attendance, it should not cause great difficulty for the West German Government. On the other hand it would be a much more difficult proposition for relations with West Germany if the occasion were to take on a more triumphal tone. In any case it is presumably for the French, as hosts, to clear their lines with the German Government.

A further point which occurs to us is that there were Canadian troops involved in the Normandy landings. This is a matter primarily for the French, but thought might have to be given to inviting M. Trudeau to the celebrations.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong and John Kerr (HM Treasury).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

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Rm Tours Abroad : London  
Eco Summit

Nov '82

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