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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 May 1984

Dear John,

Prime Minister's Bilateral Meetings during the London
Economic Summit

In your minute of 9 May to Sir Robert Armstrong you invited our comments on the question of who should accompany the Prime Minister on her bilateral meetings during the London Economic Summit. Mr Barrington is dealing with the question of interpreters.

During the Williamsburg Summit the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with President Reagan, Herr Kohl and Mr Nakasone. There was no one else present at the meeting with President Reagan. The Foreign Secretary accompanied the Prime Minister during her meeting with Mr Nakasone. You attended the meeting with Herr Kohl.

The Foreign Secretary will not be in London when the Prime Minister sees Mr Nakasone (1130 on 11 June). He is planning to hold his own bilateral meetings with Messrs Shultz, Cheysson, Genscher and Abe. The meeting with Shultz will take place before the Summit. We have not yet arranged times for the others: but in practice most of them will have to take place at times when the Prime Minister is holding her own meetings. The Foreign Secretary does not, therefore, wish to suggest that he should attend any of the Prime Minister's bilaterals on this occasion. Our advice is accordingly that the Prime Minister should be accompanied by a Private Secretary. If she wished a senior adviser from the FCO to be present at any of them, for example the call by M. Thorn, we would of course be happy to arrange this.

I am copying this to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Prime Minister

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To avoid any potential difficulty with the French, shall we suggest that your bilateral meeting with President Mitterrand takes place at Lancaster House at the end of the meeting on 8 June?

Yes, Mr

Ref. A084/1547

MR COLES

London Summit: Bilateral Meetings

A.S.C. 24/5

At the recent meeting of Personal Representatives at Chevening the Canadian said he could confirm that Mr Trudeau had accepted the Prime Minister's proposal for their bilateral meeting. This means that all the bilateral meetings are now confirmed as follows:

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------------------------|
| 5 June | 6.00 pm | President Reagan |
| 8 June | 8.30 am | Mr Trudeau |
| | 6.15 pm | President Mitterrand |
| 9 June | 8.30 am | Herr Kohl |
| | 5.30 pm | Signor Craxi |
| | 6.15 pm | Monsieur Thorn |
| 11 June | 11.30 am | Mr Nakasone (official visit) |

2. I assume that with the possible exception of the meeting with President Mitterrand the Prime Minister expects the other meetings to take place at No 10. I believe you are in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about note-takers who would, I imagine, be Private Secretaries only on each side in each case. If you agree to the presence of any other Ministers or officials please let us know so that we can keep the Summit Unit informed.

3. Mr Ingham in each case will look after the press arrangements, ie photographs and any subsequent briefing.

4. As far as interpreters are concerned the Summit Unit will arrange that interpreters should be on hand to help the Prime Minister for the meetings with President Mitterrand, Herr Kohl and Signor Craxi, and the Far Eastern Department of the FCO will deal with the meeting with Mr Nakasone which is, of course, outside the Summit period. The Summit Unit propose that interpreters for the first three should come from the official team hired for

simultaneous interpretation during the Summit; Mr Lawrence for the meeting with President Mitterrand, Mrs Lawrence for Signor Craxi and Mrs H Ayers for Chancellor Kohl. If the Prime Minister wants anyone else please let Mr Harris know (telephone 273 4507).

5. I assume you will agree that where Heads of Delegation do not speak English they may bring their own personal interpreters with them also.

6. Bilateral meetings have been timed to fit in to the only slots available in the Summit programme. There should be no problems except that the Summit Unit hope that the Prime Minister can arrive at Lancaster House at 9.15 am on 8 June so that she is there to greet the other Heads of Delegation on their first arrival at Lancaster House. This would mean breaking up her meeting with Mr Trudeau - and possibly bringing him along with her - at around 9.10 am. The meeting with President Mitterrand should be all right so long as the Lancaster House talks do not go on beyond 6.00 pm. The meeting with Signor Craxi should be all right provided there is no great slippage in the Guildhall ceremony timetable, after which the Prime Minister will be giving her press conference at the Connaught Rooms. If all goes according to plan she should be away from the Connaught Rooms by 5.15 pm at the latest.

7. One problem remains, which is the venue for the meeting with President Mitterrand. Mr Barrington has deliberately not discussed this with the French since he did not want to precipitate a request from them that the Prime Minister should call, as protocol would probably suggest, at the French residence at Kensington Palace Gardens where President Mitterrand is staying, or at some other place of French choosing. I should be grateful to know how you suggest we should play this. Would you like us to propose that the meeting should be, like the others, at No 10 or to ask French views? In the latter case the outcome would probably be the French residence.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23 May 1984

Why not at Lancaster House - or just across the road in Ambrose

to the house not