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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

1 March 1988

Dear John,

TORONTO SUMMIT: POLITICAL ISSUES

I thought that I might send you a short note recording that the Sherpas had a brief discussion over dinner about the political subjects which the Heads of Government might discuss at the Toronto Summit.

Predictably, there was a general view that East/West, and particularly the outcome of President Reagan's discussions with Mr. Gorbachev, and the Middle East would be the centrepiece of their discussion. There were also suggestions that Heads of Government might wish to compare their assessments of the political and economic situation in the Soviet Union. It was left that if any of us believed that our Heads of Government would wish to raise other issues, we should try to give some indication at the next meeting of Sherpas which begins on Thursday 19 May. There was a general recognition that events are likely to force other issues on to the agenda.

Finally, I should record that my colleagues expressed, with some vehemence, the view that Heads should issue only one political "piece of paper". My German colleague, Hans Tietmeyer, argued strongly against the practice of previous summits of issuing several "statements" or declarations. He believed that such statements should be wrapped up in a single declaration. He received wide support.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey Littler in the Treasury and to Rodric Braithwaite in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

N. L. Wicks

(N. L. WICKS)

Sir John Fretwell, GCMG

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