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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 March 1988

N L Wicks Esq CBE  
10 Downing Street

*Dear Nigel,*

I had a further call on 9 March from Daniel Dultzin, of the Mexican Embassy, about whom I wrote on 4 February.

2. Dultzin said rather sadly that the proposal for a discreet meeting between the Sherpas and some of the debtors had got nowhere. He understood that it had been raised at Val David by Attali but had been opposed by everyone else present. The Canadians and the Italians, whom the Mexicans had approached bilaterally, had bilaterally rejected it. Geoffrey Littler had expressed very negative views, amongst others on the ground that the Prime Minister in particular was opposed to any complication or institutionalisation of the Summit preparation process. Although the intention had been to have a very discreet meeting, Dultzin accepted that the chances of it staying out of the newspapers would have been very slim, and that publicity would have given rise to all sorts of undesirable speculation.

3. I said that I was not aware that the matter had been discussed at Val David, though it might well have come up at one of the Sherpas-only meals. I was not surprised that the proposal had not found favour: it did indeed raise many complications.

4. Dultzin said that the Mexicans were now wondering whether the views that they would have expressed at an informal meeting should now be conveyed in writing to the Canadian Sherpa. I said that many countries and groups expressed their views on economic issues to the Summit leaders before their annual meeting.

5. Dultzin remained gloomy about the Mexican economy: the debt buy-back scheme had produced disappointing, and perhaps even counter-productive, results. He showed no disposition to challenge the case-by-case policy of creditor countries. But he thought that the debt problem would only be ameliorated as a result of a slow evolution of attitudes amongst the creditors as well as the debtors.

*Yours ever,  
Rodric*

R Q Braithwaite

cc Sir G Littler KCB  
HM Treasury

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*me OCA*

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

10 March 1988

*Joe Radice,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 March reporting your conversation with Daniel Dultzin of the Mexican Embassy.

I should have told you before now that the question of a meeting between Sherpas and representatives of major debtors did indeed arise, briefly, at a Sherpa meal. Jacques Attali said that he had been invited to visit Mexico, I think in May, for a discussion with representatives of the major debtor countries. He was vague on details, but thought that the meeting concerned might be similar to one he had attended last year. This had been attended by government officials and by outsiders, such as academics. None of my Sherpa colleagues showed any interest in attending.

I am sure you are right to tell Dultzin that many countries and groups express their views on economic issues to the Summit leaders before their annual meetings.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey Littler.

*Yours truly*  
*Nigel Wicks*  
(N.L. WICKS) —

R.Q. Braithwaite, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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