



H M Treasury
Parliament Street London SW1P 3AG

Switchboard 01-270 3000
Direct Dialling 01-270 ⁴³⁶⁹.....

CF.
written By 15
Apr we should
have received
an ECO reply from
R Braithwaite. B/F
to we will his reply

Sir Geoffrey Littler KCB
Second Permanent Secretary

N.
21 March 1988

Dear Nigel,

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 15 March, which I have discussed with John Anson and Haydon Phillips here.

I think we have to approach this on the assumption that there would be public knowledge of a chosen main topic and in consequence pressure from the media to give some indication of the course of the discussion or its conclusions.

We are frankly very dubious about health care as a topic. Your point about timing in relation to our review might in itself be manageable. Our worry is the other one you mention - that of public domestic presentation of the discussion. The problem we see is that we think it would be difficult to crystalise from the discussion any positive common action or way forward, beyond mere platitudes, whereas relatively unsympathetic elements in various systems could well be highlighted by the media.

As a different possible topic we wonder whether discussion of criminal justice or law and order might be both interesting to the participants and capable of offering more scope for a useful public statement afterwards. Each country's policing, judicial and penal arrangements vary, but all suffer problems of rising crime rates, increasing public concern and political imperatives to try to do better. It might be possible to construct a theme which combined community responsibility (and the role of the citizen) in relation to crime prevention, with international cooperation (highly relevant and already on past summit agendas for example in drugs) in relation to both prevention and detection.

I am copying this to Robin Butler and Rod Braithwaite.

Yours,
Geoffrey

Nigel Wicks Esq CBE
No 10 Downing Street.

Eca Pd - shenpa Pr2



H M Treasury

Parliament Street London SW1P 3AG

Switchboard 01-210 3000

Direct Dialing 01-210 3000

ECONOMIC SURVEY: POSSIBLE POINTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

21 III

8 9 8



file SLH

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 March 1988

Dear David,

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Mario Sarcinelli's letter about the Summit format, which I sent to you today, prompts me to write to seek your and Geoffrey Littler's views on whether there are subjects which we should advise the Prime Minister to seek to have discussed at the informal discussion before the dinner on the Monday evening of the Summit.

I suppose that one domestic topic might be the future provision of health service care. This is certainly an issue which is under active discussion in this country and in many others, including the United States, Italy and Germany. If we suggest this to the Prime Minister as a possible topic, we need to be clear about our objective. There would no doubt be some interesting discussion and the Prime Minister might gain some useful insights. But that is hardly a sufficient objective. I believe that the Prime Minister would want to say in public that it was clear from this discussion that other countries were facing the same challenges and questions on health care as the United Kingdom and that the heads of government shared similar perceptions about the way forward. It might be possible in this way to use the Summit discussion to help, in a modest way, the eventual presentation of the Government's Review of the National Health Service though it may well be that progress with the NHS Review will not have proceeded sufficiently far by June for this to be possible. I would not rate the advantages of this course very high, but there may be the beginnings of an idea here. I should be grateful for your views. We would of course need to consult the DHSS if the Prime Minister wished to carry this thought forward.

BF || You and Geoffrey Littler may have ideas for further topics for the discussion. Could I have your comments by Friday 15 April.

pm

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

I am sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey Littler.
A copy also goes to Robin Butler in case he would like to
suggest any possible topics for consideration.

*Truly
Nigel Wicks*

N. L. WICKS

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

RESTRICTED