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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 April, 1988

N L Wicks Esq CBE
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Nigel,

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POLITICAL TOPICS

1. The Canadian High Commissioner asked to see me on 13 April to discuss the Toronto political agenda. I enclose a copy of the record. As you will see, we covered the main political topics and the shape of the Political Declaration in largely standard terms. On South Africa, the High Commissioner said that Mr Mulroney had not yet decided whether he wanted to raise the issue at his level: but it will clearly come up among Foreign Ministers. The Italians and Japanese seem to have some ideas for secondary foreign policy subjects which might be discussed in Toronto. We shall of course cover all this in the briefing for your next Sherpas' meeting in May.

*John Wicks,
John*

John Fretwell

Enc.

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*Copied to my notes
and in FCO.*

*P = NS
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FM FCO

TO TELELETTER OTTAWA

TELELETTER

OF 142102Z APRIL 88

AND TO TELELETTER WASHINGTON, TOKYO, ROME

FROM N E SHEINWALD, POLICY PLANNING STAFF FCO ✓

TO W N WENBAN-SMITH ESQ OTTAWA, R B BONE ESQ WASHINGTON,
A N R MILLINGTON ESQ TOKYO, M J WILLIAMS ESQ CVO OBE ROME

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POLITICAL SUBJECTS

1. THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON SIR J FRETWELL ON 13 APRIL TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL AGENDA FOR THE TORONTO SUMMIT. ALEC CHISTOFF OF THE HIGH COMMISSION AND I WERE ALSO PRESENT.
2. MCMURTRY SAID THAT SI TAYLOR (UNDER SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN OTTAWA) LOOKED FORWARD TO WELCOMING POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN TORONTO ON 4 JUNE TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE SUMMIT. TAYLOR WAS ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN MAY TO DISCUSS THIS. FRETWELL SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO WELCOME TAYLOR IN LONDON, AND ALSO LOOKED FORWARD TO THE TORONTO MEETING.
3. MCMURTRY SOUGHT PRELIMINARY BRITISH VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA, BEARING IN MIND THE CONSENSUS THAT THIS SUMMIT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. JOHN FRETWELL REHEARSED THE DIFFICULTY OF PREDICTING THE POLITICAL AGENDA TWO MONTHS AHEAD OF THE SUMMIT. BUT WE ASSUMED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE AT THE CENTRE OF INTEREST FOR HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT IN MOSCOW. APART FROM ARMS CONTROL, PRESIDENT REAGAN MIGHT WISH TO COMMENT ON THE EVOLUTION OF SOVIET EXTERNAL POLICY GENERALLY AND ON THE PROSPECTS FOR ENGAGING THE SOVIET UNION IN A MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN THE LIGHT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GORBACHEV. THIS WAS A SUBJECT ON WHICH MRS THATCHER AND OTHERS ALSO HAD VIEWS. ANY DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT TOUCH ON THE CSCE, BUT THE TECHNICAL DETAIL OF CSCE SHOULD BE AVOIDED. JOHN FRETWELL WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE ALSO EXPECTED THAT HEADS WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH IRAN/IRAQ AND ARAB/ISRAEL. OTHER TOPICS WOULD NO DOUBT EMERGE DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS. A HIJACKING COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, EASILY DISTRACT ATTENTION.

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4. MCMURTRY ASKED WHETHER THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM COULD BE LEFT TO FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE ABSENCE OF DISCUSSION BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT BE MISINTERPRETED PUBLICLY. JOHN FRETWELL THOUGHT THAT, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, THERE MIGHT BE A CASE FOR TAKING THE SUBJECT AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE UK FAVOURED A SINGLE AND RELATIVELY SHORT POLITICAL DECLARATION, REFLECTING WHAT HEADS HAD ACTUALLY DISCUSSED, IE NOT AN ELABORATE REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD. MCMURTRY RECALLED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY MRS THATCHER AND MR MULRONEY AT THEIR MEETING IN THE MARGINS OF THE NATO SUMMIT IN MARCH. HE SAID THAT UK VIEWS WERE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT THE CANADIANS HAD HEARD FROM OTHER PARTNERS. APART FROM THE ACKNOWLEDGED PRINCIPAL POLITICAL SUBJECTS, THE ITALIANS HAD SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA. BUT THE CANADIANS WONDERED WHETHER THIS MIGHT BE LEFT FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE JAPANESE HAD SUGGESTED CAMBODIA, BUT HAD NOT GIVEN AN INDICATION OF WHAT THEY WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ON. (INCIDENTALLY VICE MINISTER MURATA ALSO MENTIONED KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON THIS WEEK). FRETWELL MADE CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE SUGGESTIONS OF OTHERS. BUT OUR BROAD PREFERENCE WAS TO CONCENTRATE ON A SMALL RANGE OF POLITICAL SUBJECTS AND TACKLE THEM IN REASONABLE DEPTH, RATHER THAN ADOPT A SCATTER-GUN APPROACH. THIS WAS OF COURSE SUBJECT TO THE CAVEAT THAT HEADS WOULD DISCUSS WHAT WAS MOST ON THEIR MINDS AT THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT.

5. MCMURTRY MENTIONED SOUTH AFRICA. THE CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD WANT TO TAKE THIS UP WITH HIS COLLEAGUES. BUT MR MULRONEY HAD NOT SAID WHETHER HE WANTED THE SUBJECT ON THE HEADS' AGENDA. MCMURTRY ASKED WHETHER FRETWELL WANTED TO PASS AN EARLY UK VIEW TO OTTAWA. FRETWELL SAID THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN LONDON FOR DISCUSSING SOUTH AFRICA IN TORONTO: HE RECALLED THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSION IN VENICE. IN RESPONSE TO MCMURTRY'S QUESTION, FRETWELL SAID THAT THE UK HAD NO OTHER IDEAS AT PRESENT FOR SECONDARY FOREIGN POLICY SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. MCMURTRY SAID THAT THE CANADIANS HAD DETECTED A QUOTE EUROPEAN UNQUOTE INTEREST IN DISCUSSING CENTRAL AMERICA. FRETWELL SAID THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF ANY MOVEMENT TO FOCUS ON IT. THE FRENCH WERE DECIDELY LESS ENGAGED THAN A FEW YEARS AGO. AMONG THE TWELVE, THE SPANIARDS HAD THE GREATEST INTEREST: BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE IN TORONTO. MCMURTRY SAID THAT THE PRELIMINARY CANADIAN VIEW WAS THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE A FRUITFUL TOPIC FOR SUMMIT LEADERS TO TAKE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN POLICY DIFFERENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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6. IT WAS LEFT THAT THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION WOULD LET US KNOW IF TAYLOR DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH HIS EUROPEAN VISIT NEXT MONTH. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHETHER SUCH A VISIT WOULD ADD MUCH TO THE PREPARATIONS, GIVEN THE EXISTING SHERPAS' TIMETABLE. BUT WE WOULD OF COURSE TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A WORTHWHILE PROGRAMME IN LONDON FOR HIM.

7. COPIES GO BY BAG TO PARIS AND BONN.

SIGNED N E SHEINWALD
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