



## H M Treasury

Parliament Street London SW1P 3AG

Switchboard 01-270 3000

Direct Dialling 01-270 .....

Sir Geoffrey Littler KCB  
Second Permanent Secretary

9 September 1988

*Dear Nigel,*

How unpredictable Jacques Attali is! I would not have expected him to be launching such a heavy bureaucratic process. And I don't like it! (Nor, I suspect, will the Prime Minister).

Just to clear first the question of dates: I think both 21-22 January and 18-19 March are 'safe' from the particular UK Treasury clashes which I mentioned earlier (though our dates are not in either case yet definitely fixed). I still know nothing more of Paye's plans for the OECD - perhaps Nicholas can help?

But I hope you can contest the number of meetings. In my own view there is a case for a meeting in January or March, but not both - the danger of two is that January's premature ideas then get solidified in March before the time when one can best judge the best agenda.

For the present, my best guess is that we shall have enjoyed a year of generally favourable economic progress (on activity and inflation and even on unemployment in Europe) - but it is only a best guess. On that basis, I can only offer the following thoughts on a possible July 1989 economic agenda:

- the importance of cementing the new US administration into the broad economic approach of past summits;
- if 'world imbalance' problems have become severe again, that part of the agenda will shape itself (although it might well be acrimonious!); if on the contrary we can record further progress and the outlook is comforting, I think I would expect the French to be making another push for world exchange rate agreements - they may do so anyway;

/ - special...

Nigel Wicks Esq  
10 Downing Street.

- special arrangements for the poorest (sub-Sahara) will have begun to be implemented - in fact very soon now - and attention may focus on middle-income countries: the last thing we want is new approaches, but there could be material for an evolutionary re-statement;
- progress of the Uruguay round must surely be a big item.

I shall send you within the next ten days a preview of some notes the Chancellor will (I hope) be using at the Berlin meetings later this month - on the middle-income question. It would be sensible for you to make a little dossier of our telegram reports from Berlin (24-29 September) of the G7, Interim, etc, meetings, together with the communique which will also be available here. Since I shall be taking a little holiday between Berlin and your Sherpa meeting - if you need further help, try Huw Evans here.

I am copying this to Nicholas Bayne, and also letting Huw Evans have a copy.

*Yours,*

*Geoffrey*

(Geoffrey Littler)



[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

CONQUEROR

[Faint, illegible text]

[Faint, illegible text]