

SRWCBK

PRIME MINISTER

PARIS ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POLITICAL TEXTS

We now have the draft political texts for the Economic Summit which emerged from the Sherpas' meeting at the weekend. They are attached together with commentaries. It is proposed that Foreign Ministers should discuss them on Friday afternoon, and they will then be taken by Heads of Government over dinner that evening.

The main issues are:

- Human rights. The French have pressed very hard for this. It is most innocuous except on one point, the alleged "right to inherit a healthy environment". This is a dangerous step towards the concept of collective rights, as well as nonsense. We have some alternative wording to propose, for which I hope Foreign Ministers will settle. Incidentally you will not like the first sentence of the text which suggests that human rights were invented in 1789: but it's France's party and you may as well let them have it (you have already comprehensively knocked this absurd concept on the head in your television interview.

- East/West. A pretty good text apart from an absurd refusal by Germany and Italy to have any reference to nuclear deterrence unless it's a lengthy verbatim quote from the NATO Summit Declaration. You might need to pursue this point at dinner. President Bush may want to beef up the references to help for Poland and Hungary;

- China/Hong Kong. The Japanese are being very feeble about listing measures against China: you may want to pursue with Mr. Uno. The sentences on Hong Kong are a bare minimum. We will want to add a sentence which gives an indication of readiness to help Hong Kong in an "armageddon" situation. The Foreign Secretary will try this at his meeting;

- Arab/Israel. There isn't a text, because the Americans are reluctant, given the current manoeuverings in Israel. This is something which will have to be discussed between the French and Americans. It would be better to have a text.

C D P

(C. D. POWELL)

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