



file 110

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. HATFIELD
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 31 May about the Economic Summit 1984. She agrees that Sir Robert should now give more thought to the possibility of sites for the Summit outside London. Mrs. Thatcher would also be grateful if Sir Robert could consider further the style of the Summit and in particular whether we should aim at a simpler, more workmanlike approach than that of Versailles and Williamsburg. In considering the possibilities the Prime Minister would like advice on the costs of the various alternatives. You may also like to know that the Prime Minister has commented that she imagines that President Reagan's security advisers may prefer a site outside London.

I am sending copies of this letter to Mr. Kerr (H.M. Treasury) and Mr. Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

W. F. S. RICKETT

3 June 1983

PRIME MINISTER

I think it would be useful if Sir Robert Armstrong, as he suggests, comes up with some alternative proposals for sites outside London for our Economic Summit. You can consider these after the election. But I think it would also be worth considering then what is really a prior question - namely, do we want our Summit to be a grandiose affair on the Versailles/Williamsburg model or should we try to set a simpler, more workmanlike style? I also think you should receive advice on the costs of the various alternatives - we were told earlier that to hold the Summit outside London would be liable to cost an extra £½ million. If you agree I shall ask Sir Robert to consider these points.

Yes please.
 1. Don't forget President Reagan's Security advisers A.S.C.
 Will take kindly to London, me

1 June 1983

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MR COLES

Economic Summit 1984

After Versailles the Prime Minister asked us to consider possible locations outside London for the Economic Summit in 1984 for which the United Kingdom will be the host. We reported on a number of possibilities, but for various reasons none of them seemed to be ideal, and the Prime Minister ruled in favour of a meeting in London.

2. My impression from something she said at Williamsburg is that the Prime Minister would like to have another look at this matter, to see if after all it might be possible to hold the Summit somewhere outside London. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary both expressed to me on the way home their strong views that we should do our best to find a location outside London.

3. If the Prime Minister agrees, therefore, I propose to give some more thought to this matter and perhaps put in hand some reconnaissance if necessary, and to come up with further proposals after the Election.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

31 May 1983