

From: the Rt. Hon. Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd

Tel: 01 730 0014



77 Chester Square,
London, S.W.1.

House of Lords · Westminster

27th July, 1983

Dear Prime Minister

Leeds Castle Foundation

Thank you very much for your letter of 26th July which, of course, I will treat as highly confidential. While naturally disappointed that it will not be possible for the coming Summit meeting to be held at Leeds Castle, I do, of course, understand that you must have good reasons for deciding to hold it in London. It was very kind indeed of you to write personally and tell me about it.

I believe that sometimes, when such meetings are held in London, some of the participants like to visit places of interest outside. Should this be the case in this instance, perhaps Leeds, which is only a short helicopter journey away, may be considered for such a visit in view of its historical associations and great beauty. June is one of our prettiest months and we shall just have completed the reconstruction of the bedroom and bathroom of Catherine de Valois, the last queen to own the Castle. It is being designed by Peter Wilson and Dr. Penelope Eames, the greatest authority in the world on medieval furniture.

Yours sincerely
Geoffrey Lloyd

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

K28 OF PPS?
Summit
188
Please copy to:
✓ Mr. Hallfield
✓ Mr. Fidd.
AFC 28/7

ECON POL: LONDON SUMMIT: Pt 12



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FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR HATFIELD
CABINET OFFICE

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

I attach a copy of an exchange of correspondence between Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd and the Prime Minister about the possibility of the next Economic Summit being held at Leeds Castle.

I am copying this minute and enclosure to Mr. Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

K. J. COLES

26 July, 1983

Brc



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 July 1983

Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 28 June about the possibility of the next Economic Summit being held at Leeds Castle.

I know very well that you are able to provide excellent facilities and that any event at Leeds Castle would be superbly arranged. But for various reasons we have decided that it will be best if the Summit takes place in London. I should be most grateful if you would keep this to yourself because we do not envisage an announcement for some time.

I am afraid that this reply will be a little disappointing to you. But you will appreciate that there are many considerations which we have to take into account in deciding where to hold this important event. Thank you very much for your kind offer,

*Yours sincerely
Raymond*

The Right Honourable Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd,

*re MFS
C. FCO
CO.*

PRIME MINISTER

Economic Summit

I attach a letter which Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd wrote to you on 28 June advocating Leeds Castle as the venue for our Economic Summit. I wrote to him then saying that it might be a little time before a decision was taken and that you would reply to him in due course.

He rang me yesterday to ask where matters stood. He wanted to let me know very informally (and not for repetition elsewhere) that if we chose Leeds Castle he would do everything possible to reduce the expense to the British Government and essentially that he would agree to whatever charges the Government considered to be reasonable. He even told me (but would not wish this to be passed on) that Leeds Castle would probably be able to contribute £50,000 towards the expenses.

Following your decision the other day that the Summit should be held in London, Departments are now working on that basis.

I attach a letter for you to send to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd.

A.J.C.

22 July 1983



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. HATFIELD

1984 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Thank you for your minute of today's date.

When Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd wrote to the Prime Minister he also wrote to me making it plain that he would be content if his letter to the Prime Minister was put before her when she received advice on the venue for the Summit. I replied to him at once saying that this would be done but explaining that I could not yet estimate when the moment for doing so would arrive and that there would, therefore, be some delay in replying to his substantive letter.

I do not therefore think it necessary for the Prime Minister to send an interim reply to him. I should be grateful if, as suggested in my letter of 29 June, you could submit a substantive reply to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd's letter when you provide advice on this matter.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

5 July 1983



Ref.A083/1960

MR COLES

1984 Economic Summit

Your letter to Roger Bone of 29 June asked for a draft reply that the Prime Minister might send to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd's letter suggesting Leeds Castle as the site for the 1984 Economic Summit. We will shortly be submitting further advice on the possible venues for the Summit but the Prime Minister may wish to send a reply to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd straight away and I enclose a draft for this purpose.

2. I am sending a copy of this minute to Roger Bone.

R P HATFIELD

5 July 1983



DRAFT MINUTE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
THE RT HON LORD GEOFFREY-LLOYD
77 CHESTER SQUARE, LONDON SW1

Thank you very much for your letter of 28 June about the possibility that Leeds Castle might be the site for the 1984 Economic Summit.

I should like to assure you that I am giving very careful consideration to the site for the 1984 Economic Summit; and Leeds Castle is one of the options which is under active examination. I hope to come to a decision on the site very soon, and we shall let you know the outcome. I have fond memories of the Castle and it is a question of seeing which of the possible sites under consideration will best meet the demanding requirements of such a major event.

Ref.A083/1960

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Your letter to Roger Bone of 29 June asked for a draft reply that the Prime Minister might send to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd's letter suggesting Leeds Castle as the site for the 1984 Economic Summit. We will shortly be submitting further advice on the possible venues for the Summit but the Prime Minister may wish to send a reply to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd straight away and I enclose a draft for this purpose.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June 1983

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 28 June about Leeds Castle Foundation. I shall indeed ensure that when the Prime Minister receives advice on the venue for the Summit your letter and its enclosures are put before her. I cannot yet estimate when this point will be reached - so I hope you will forgive us if there is some delay in replying to your letter.

A. J. COLES

The Rt. Hon. Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd

CONFIDENTIAL

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CC CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June 1983

Economic Summit

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd advocating the merits of Leeds Castle for the Summit. I shall not show this letter to the Prime Minister until further advice is available on the possible venues for the occasion. But I should be grateful if you or Richard Hatfield could ensure that when this advice comes forward the Prime Minister's attention is drawn to Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd's letter (it would be helpful at that time to have a draft reply).

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: the Rt. Hon. Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd

Tel: 01 730 0014



77 Chester Square,
London, S.W.1.

House of Lords · Westminster

CONFIDENTIAL

28th June, 1983

Dear Prime Minister

Leeds Castle Foundation

Thinking of a possible summit meeting at Leeds Castle when you came to visit us six years ago, you said to me: "I have chosen my room!".

Now we understand from the Foreign Office that you may actually decide to come next year - if you think us worthy. In our conference work also we have followed our main principle: the resolute pursuit of excellence. I cannot resist sending you two typical letters from satisfied customers.

With regard to cost, I have told our management to make it absolutely clear to the Foreign Office that the policy of the Trustees towards the British Government is not to bargain but to agree to whatever charges the Government consider to be reasonable. Our books are completely open for inspection in every detail.

As you may remember, Lord Fairfax, who was then the owner of Leeds Castle, the only Peer to emigrate to America, and Lord Proprietor of 5,200,000 acres of Virginia, gave George Washington his first job. They became great friends and remained so even through the revolutionary war: and America's first President mourned the death of the 'good old Lord'. Twice - first in 1806, when the last 150,000 acres of the old Proprietary were sold and again in our time through Lady Baillie's inheritance from her Whitney mother - American money has been the means of restoring and preserving Leeds Castle. So the British Embassy in Washington, when announcing the birth of our Foundation, referred to Leeds as 'The Anglo American Castle'. Lord Fairfax's carriage and other belongings



House of Lords · Westminster

- 2 -

28th June, 1983

are preserved at Mount Vernon and only some two miles away was his house, Belvoir. George Washington said "the happiest moments of my life were spent there" and the site is now preserved by the U.S. Engineers as "a sanctuary of the American people". Indeed, there is an American Leeds Castle Foundation which is a public charity there and which, working with our own Foundation here, was responsible for suggesting to Patrick Jenkin, when he was at the DHSS, the conference on the 'Prevention of Disablement'. This led to the Leeds Castle Declaration on the Prevention of Disablement which was incorporated in the United Nations ten year World Programme of Action for the Disabled and is leading to massive developments all over the world.

Arthur Bryant wrote: "Perhaps the most extraordinary of all the castle's historic associations is that with the United States." In terms of Anglo American cultural relations, would not Leeds Castle be a worthy successor to Williamsburg?

*Henry
Gwyn-Llywelyn*

Enclosures: Letters from Mitchell Cotts and Pearson Longman
Brief History with relevant passages marked

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Mitchell Cotts

International Engineering, Transportation and Trading

From The Chairman

* From the Falklands campaign.
You so marvellously sent us
a personal message for them
- at very short notice.

20th September, 1982.

The Rt.Hon. the Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd, PC.,
Leeds Castle Foundation,
Maidstone,
Kent ME17 1PL.

Dear Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd,

Now that I am back in my office following our Conference, it is with much pleasure that I write to express my sincere appreciation of all that was done for us last week.

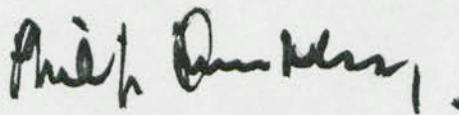
I can say without hesitation that all those taking part are convinced that there is nowhere in this country which can compare with Leeds Castle as a venue for a high level conference. The unique surroundings, the really superb catering and the efficiency and helpfulness of the staff all combined to ensure the success of the Conference and to make it an event we shall remember all our lives.

I would very much appreciate it if you would pass on my thanks to all concerned. I have, in fact, written a separate note to Mr. Money, who personally escorted some of us around the Castle.

On a personal note, it was a great pleasure to join in the * reception of the wounded soldiers, and I particularly enjoyed meeting the young Gurkhas from my old regiment. I would also like to thank you for taking the time to address us all about the work of the Leeds Castle Foundation.

I hope we shall have the opportunity to meet again before too long.

Yours sincerely,



P. P. Dunkley

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Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd
Leeds Castle Foundation
Maidstone
Kent.

19 October 1982

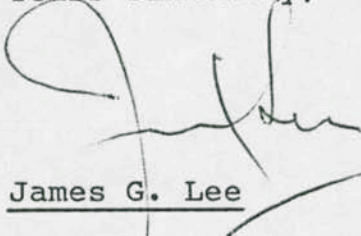
Dear Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd,

I am sorry that I missed the opportunity to meet you while I was at Leeds Castle. I would like you to know that we found your organisation absolutely outstanding.

I have never been at any conference, and I have been to a few, where things moved so smoothly all of the time.

I hope that we will be able to be with you many times again over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



James G. Lee

JGL/vk

From: the Rt. Hon. Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd

Tel: 01 730
0014



77 Chester Square,
London, S.W.1.

28th June, 1983

Dear John Coles

Leeds Castle Foundation

Would you mind seeing that these papers reach the Prime Minister in conjunction with those from the Foreign Office on the same subject?

*Yours
and my friend*

John Coles, Esq.,
Private Secretary responsible for
Foreign Office Affairs,
10 Downing Street, London, S.W.1.