

CONFIDENTIAL

①

Ref. A084/95

MR COLES ✓

Mr. [unclear]
I see no reason
to pursue
this
not

Prime Minister.

would you like the idea of a declaration
on Narcotics to be tentatively explored before
you take a final decision?

A-F-C. 10/1

Economic Summit 1984

- By whom?

It has been suggested to me that the Economic Summit 1984 might provide a suitable occasion for some kind of declaration by Heads of State or Government of the industrialised countries about the traffic in narcotics.

2. That is not strictly, of course, an economic subject. But there are precedents for declarations at Summits on non-economic subjects: notably the Bonn declaration on terrorism and the later declaration on hijacking of aircraft. In a sense these are not particularly happy precedents: both declarations were made in response to particular events, and both incorporated commitments to international action which have not always been honoured in the spirit in which they were made; nonetheless, they have had their uses as additional instruments for persuading countries to take action which they were otherwise reluctant to take.

3. It could well be that President Reagan would welcome some kind of declaration at the 1984 Summit on the subject of drugs. It is a subject on which he has expressed great concern, and he might well see electoral benefits in an international declaration on the subject at the London Summit. President Mitterrand is also concerned about drugs, and might also see a value in an international declaration to which France and other major industrialised countries were signatories.

4. If we are to pursue this idea, we shall need to give thought to the possible content of a declaration. We should need to have discussed the idea informally with our Summit partners in advance of the Summit itself, and I should need to open up the subject with Personal Representatives at the meeting scheduled for April, if not at the meeting scheduled for February.

5. If the Prime Minister is interested in the idea of such a declaration and thinks it worth pursuing, I will take the matter up with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

and will make proposals to her in good time before anything needs to be said to other Summit partners. But clearly I would not wish to start on that basis if the Prime Minister was not interested in having a declaration on this subject at the London Summit.

Re

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

9 January 1984

CONFIDENTIAL