



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
CABINET OFFICE

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Economic Summit : Terrorism

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 31 January.

She has commented that she herself will wish to decide whether to pursue with the other participants in the Summit the idea of an initiative on terrorism. Following the next meeting of Personal Representatives, therefore, the Prime Minister will be grateful for advice on the thinking of the other countries involved, and on the possible purpose and scope of such a declaration. She will then consider whether she wishes a suitable item to be included in the Summit agenda.

A. J. COLES

2 February 1984

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Ref. A084/351

MR COLBY ✓

Prime Minister.

I think this is an issue on which you should take the decision.

Yes Mr  
Ray says that following the Sherpa meeting you would like advice on the wishes of other countries, and the purpose and scope of a declaration — and that you will then decide whether to pursue it with other countries. ASC 1/2

You sent me recently a copy of the message which the President of the United States had sent to the Prime Minister about the need for a multilateral initiative on terrorism.

2. The Prime Minister will wish to know that the State Department have given notice that for internal political reasons the United States Government will want some sort of declaration against terrorism at the Economic Summit.

3. The Prime Minister will remember that terrorism was discussed at some earlier Summits, in the wake of particular incidents. Declarations were issued at the Bonn Summit in 1978 and at the Venice Summit in 1980 about hijacks and incidents involving diplomats. This year the Americans will look for a broader declaration condemning terrorism in all its forms and committing the Summit countries to co-operate more widely against international terrorism.

4. This is not a wholly welcome development. The record of previous Summit declarations on terrorism for effectiveness has not been very good. Terrorism is in any case a peripheral subject for discussion at Summits; there is a danger that a denunciation of terrorism issued by the London Summit, known to have resulted from an American initiative, would be seen as a condemnation of Iran, Syria, Libya and the PLO, and by implication as an endorsement of American policy on the various disputes in which they are involved. Other Summit participants may well not be very keen to become involved in this way.

5. The next step lies with the Americans. If they raise it at the meeting of Personal Representatives next month, we shall have an opportunity of judging the reactions of other countries. At this stage I would propose to adopt a neutral position: I should not myself be urging the inclusion of terrorism in the Summit agenda, but equally I should not propose to stand in the way, in the perhaps unlikely event of a general agreement to proceed.

RIA  
ROBERT ARMSTRONG

31 January 1984