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CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 June 1984

R Hatfield Esq
PS/Sir R Armstrong
Cabinet Office
LONDON SW1

A. J. C. G.
/c.

h-c.

Dear Hatfield,

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: PRESS STATEMENT ON TERRORISM

... 1. As agreed between you and Nick Browne over the telephone this morning, I enclose a copy of the suggested final draft of the press statement on terrorism. This has been cleared with Sir Julian Bullard and with David Hilary in the Home Office (in Michael Partridge's absence). It is basically the draft of 31 May (Annex to FMV 84/1); but we have taken the opportunity to work in the following points:

a) a reference to the Bonn, Venice and Ottawa Summits (all of which produced statements on terrorism);

b) reference to the change of emphasis in terrorist activities from hijacking and kidnapping to new methods; and to the ability of terrorists to move across international boundaries. These amendments reflect acceptance of some of the American suggestions for changes in earlier papers shown to them;

c) new sub-paragraphs on diplomatic and political reactions to terrorist acts and on the sale of weapons to states supporting terrorism. These changes bring the press statement into line with current suggestions for action among the Ten.

Yours sincerely,
J W D Gray

J W D Gray
Maritime, Aviation and
Environment Department

/Copied



Copied to: John Coles Esq No 10
David Colvin Esq Cabinet Office
David Hilary Esq Home Office
Sir J Bullard
Mr Tait ERD
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ECONOMIC SUMMIT: DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

1. During the course of our discussions we considered the continued place of international terrorism. We recalled the undertakings in the Bonn, Venice and Ottawa Declarations. Hijacking and kidnapping have declined because of improved security measures but terrorists have now found new ways of seeking to achieve their aims. We acknowledged the need for states to take action both nationally and in conjunction with others to combat this threat. We all viewed with serious concern the increasing involvement of states and governments in terrorist acts, including the abuse of diplomatic immunity, as in the recent murder of a policewoman in St James's Square. We were disturbed to note the ease with which terrorists move across international boundaries, and gain access to weapons, explosives, training and finance. We recognise the importance which must attach to the inviolability of diplomatic missions and to the requirements of international law. But that law brings obligations as well as rights. We will be seeking to strengthen existing measures against international terrorism and to develop effective new ones.

2. The sort of ideas we discussed were;

- a) to cooperate closely in the exchange of information on threatened acts of terrorism and on those engaged in international terrorism;
- b) to exchange information on domestic legislation in the search for gaps which might be exploited by terrorists;
- c) to apply strictly the Vienna Convention as it affects the status of diplomats, the size of diplomatic missions and the extent of buildings enjoying diplomatic immunity;
- d) to review the sale of weapons to states supporting terrorism;
- e) to review the level of diplomatic relations and the scale of political contacts with states which sponsor terrorist acts;
- f) to expel or exclude from our countries known terrorists including persons of diplomatic status suspected of involvement in terrorism;
- g) to study the implications of international terrorism for the rules of the Vienna Convention.

3. In ways such as these we intend to take the lead in developing action among the international community as a whole to prevent and punish terrorist acts and to identify and condemn those states which sponsor them. In our view, this is a problem which affects the international community as a whole and not only those assembled here.