

Ref. A084/1645

MR COLES

See my minute to
 Sir R. Armstrong today
 about the order of events.

ASG
 /6.

London Economic Summit: International Terrorism

You asked for advice for the Prime Minister about the handling of international terrorism at the Economic Summit. I have discussed this with Sir Julian Bullard, who agrees with the following recommendations.

2. It is proposed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should raise the general subject of international terrorism at the dinner of Foreign Ministers on Thursday 7 June. That discussion should not have before it any texts; but the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will have in his mind the points which we should like to see in any statement made to the press, and will seek to ensure that they feature in the discussion.
3. After dinner that evening I will circulate to Personal Representatives and Political Directors (who will be meeting to discuss the Draft Declaration on Democratic Values) a proposed statement for the press on international terrorism, inviting them to take it away and let us have comments as soon as possible the following morning. We would then produce a revised text, taking account of comments made, which could be circulated either to Heads of State or Government towards the end of Friday morning or to the plenary meeting on Friday afternoon.
4. It should thus be possible to have a text cleared in time for the Prime Minister to give it to the press either at the close of play on Friday 8 June or possibly at lunch-time on Saturday 9 June.
5. I am sending copies of this minute and of the draft to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 June 1984

PRESS STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

(Draft of 6 June 1984)

1. During the course of our discussions, we considered the continued menace 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, London. 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. Among the ideas canvassed in our discussion were suggestions for -

- a. closer co-operation in the exchange of information on threatened acts of terrorism and on those engaged in international terrorism;
- b. exchange of information on domestic legislation in the search for gaps which might be exploited by terrorists;
- c. strict application of the Vienna Convention as it affects the status of diplomats, the size of diplomatic missions and the number of buildings enjoying diplomatic immunity;

- d. reviewing the sale of weapons to states supporting terrorism;
- e. reviewing the level of diplomatic relations and the scale of political contacts with states which sponsor terrorist acts;
- f. the expulsion or exclusion from our countries of known terrorists including persons of diplomatic status suspected of involvement in terrorism;
- g. a study of the implications of international terrorism for the rules of the Vienna Convention.

3. We intend to take the lead in pursuing these suggestions and 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.