

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

**MR. M. STARK**

**CABINET OFFICE**

The Prime Minister has now seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 26 March about the agenda for the 1986 Economic Summit. She has agreed with Sir Robert's view that the best course might be for Heads of Government to have a preliminary discussion of the level of social security expenditure and its implications at the 1986 Summit while commissioning Personal Representatives to consider and make recommendations for the 1987 Summit. She notes that Sir Robert will arrange with the Treasury for the preparation of a speaking note.

I am copying this minute to Robert Culshaw (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Rachel Lomax (H M Treasury).

**TIM FLESHER**

1 April 1986

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bc PC

## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

**ECONOMIC SUMMIT 1986**

Your minute of 26 March said that you would arrange for speaking notes to be prepared for the Prime Minister on the two additional subjects which she had suggested might be raised at the Tokyo Economic Summit - the effects of new technology and levels of social services provision on unemployment, distortion of competition caused by lack of social services provision and health and safety regulations in newly industrialised countries - and prepare a form of words on the first of these which might be incorporated in the economic declaration from the Tokyo Summit.

I am confident that this would meet the Prime Minister's needs amply.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

C.P.

(Charles Powell)

27 March 1986

CSDP CCR  
①  
CGB

Prime Minister

You were keen to get this subject broached.

Ref. A086/1001

MR POWELL

Agree to a preliminary discussion at the Tokyo summit, followed by a study by the 1987 summit? Sheppes report to the 1987 summit?

Economic Summit 1986

I have, as you know, suggested at meetings of the Personal Representatives that one subject to which Heads of Government might like to address themselves in Tokyo is the rising level of social security expenditure in all the industrialised countries and its economic and budgetary implications.

CSDP 27/3

2. The response to this was by no means negative: the importance and difficulty of the subject was recognised. Nonetheless, none of my colleagues picked it up in subsequent discussion, and I think that, if we want to see anything come out of the 1986 Economic Summit on this subject, it will be necessary for the Prime Minister to be ready to raise it herself.

3. The question is what the Economic Summit might say or do about this problem. It was felt by the Personal Representatives that we were too near the Tokyo Summit to be able to work the subject up to a satisfactory conclusion or recommendation for this year. It was therefore suggested that the best course might be for the Heads of Government to have a preliminary discussion, recognising the problem and their common interest in it, and commissioning the Personal Representatives to consider and make recommendations for the 1987 Summit as to what the Heads of Government collectively might usefully say or do on the subject. I think that it would be right that this work should be firmly channelled through the Personal Representatives, so that we do not create a whole new international bureaucracy on this problem - which the French would probably not allow us to do anyway.

Why?  
There are already 05/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100/101/102/103/104/105/106/107/108/109/110/111/112/113/114/115/116/117/118/119/120/121/122/123/124/125/126/127/128/129/130/131/132/133/134/135/136/137/138/139/140/141/142/143/144/145/146/147/148/149/150/151/152/153/154/155/156/157/158/159/160/161/162/163/164/165/166/167/168/169/170/171/172/173/174/175/176/177/178/179/180/181/182/183/184/185/186/187/188/189/190/191/192/193/194/195/196/197/198/199/200/201/202/203/204/205/206/207/208/209/210/211/212/213/214/215/216/217/218/219/220/221/222/223/224/225/226/227/228/229/230/231/232/233/234/235/236/237/238/239/240/241/242/243/244/245/246/247/248/249/250/251/252/253/254/255/256/257/258/259/260/261/262/263/264/265/266/267/268/269/270/271/272/273/274/275/276/277/278/279/280/281/282/283/284/285/286/287/288/289/290/291/292/293/294/295/296/297/298/299/300/301/302/303/304/305/306/307/308/309/310/311/312/313/314/315/316/317/318/319/320/321/322/323/324/325/326/327/328/329/330/331/332/333/334/335/336/337/338/339/340/341/342/343/344/345/346/347/348/349/350/351/352/353/354/355/356/357/358/359/360/361/362/363/364/365/366/367/368/369/370/371/372/373/374/375/376/377/378/379/380/381/382/383/384/385/386/387/388/389/390/391/392/393/394/395/396/397/398/399/400/401/402/403/404/405/406/407/408/409/410/411/412/413/414/415/416/417/418/419/420/421/422/423/424/425/426/427/428/429/430/431/432/433/434/435/436/437/438/439/440/441/442/443/444/445/446/447/448/449/450/451/452/453/454/455/456/457/458/459/460/461/462/463/464/465/466/467/468/469/470/471/472/473/474/475/476/477/478/479/480/481/482/483/484/485/486/487/488/489/490/491/492/493/494/495/496/497/498/499/500/501/502/503/504/505/506/507/508/509/510/511/512/513/514/515/516/517/518/519/520/521/522/523/524/525/526/527/528/529/530/531/532/533/534/535/536/537/538/539/540/541/542/543/544/545/546/547/548/549/550/551/552/553/554/555/556/557/558/559/560/561/562/563/564/565/566/567/568/569/570/571/572/573/574/575/576/577/578/579/580/581/582/583/584/585/586/587/588/589/590/591/592/593/594/595/596/597/598/599/600/601/602/603/604/605/606/607/608/609/610/611/612/613/614/615/616/617/618/619/620/621/622/623/624/625/626/627/628/629/630/631/632/633/634/635/636/637/638/639/640/641/642/643/644/645/646/647/648/649/650/651/652/653/654/655/656/657/658/659/660/661/662/663/664/665/666/667/668/669/670/671/672/673/674/675/676/677/678/679/680/681/682/683/684/685/686/687/688/689/690/691/692/693/694/695/696/697/698/699/700/701/702/703/704/705/706/707/708/709/710/711/712/713/714/715/716/717/718/719/720/721/722/723/724/725/726/727/728/729/730/731/732/733/734/735/736/737/738/739/740/741/742/743/744/745/746/747/748/749/750/751/752/753/754/755/756/757/758/759/760/761/762/763/764/765/766/767/768/769/770/771/772/773/774/775/776/777/778/779/780/781/782/783/784/785/786/787/788/789/790/791/792/793/794/795/796/797/798/799/800/801/802/803/804/805/806/807/808/809/810/811/812/813/814/815/816/817/818/819/820/821/822/823/824/825/826/827/828/829/830/831/832/833/834/835/836/837/838/839/840/841/842/843/844/845/846/847/848/849/850/851/852/853/854/855/856/857/858/859/860/861/862/863/864/865/866/867/868/869/870/871/872/873/874/875/876/877/878/879/880/881/882/883/884/885/886/887/888/889/890/891/892/893/894/895/896/897/898/899/900/901/902/903/904/905/906/907/908/909/910/911/912/913/914/915/916/917/918/919/920/921/922/923/924/925/926/927/928/929/930/931/932/933/934/935/936/937/938/939/940/941/942/943/944/945/946/947/948/949/950/951/952/953/954/955/956/957/958/959/960/961/962/963/964/965/966/967/968/969/970/971/972/973/974/975/976/977/978/979/980/981/982/983/984/985/986/987/988/989/990/991/992/993/994/995/996/997/998/999/1000



4. If the Prime Minister is in general agreement with this proposal for handling the matter, I will arrange with the Treasury for the preparation of a suitable speaking note for her to use at the Economic Summit.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'R' and 'A' in a stylized, cursive script.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

26 March 1986



COMPTON