

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
TOKYO

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Japan:
Anglo Relations
PT 3

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 1568/83

Translation

Tokyo, October 21, 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

As you may recall, at the ninth Summit Meeting of Industrialized Nations held last May in Williamsburg, Virginia, I touched upon some questions arising from the recent progress made in life sciences, including recombinant DNA research, and proposed a conference of distinguished authorities from various nations with wide-ranging and profound wisdom and insight towards our future as well as specific knowledge in the field of life sciences to discuss these questions.

Fortunately, this suggestion received general support. Upon my return to Japan, I have given further careful thought to this matter in consultation with well-informed people from various circles in Japan, including scholars in natural science, social science, and philosophy.

I would like to propose that a conference on life sciences and mankind (hereinafter referred to as "the

Conference

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Conference"), as outlined in the attachment, be held from March 19 to 22, 1984, in Hakone, a resort town near Tokyo.

It is expected that three persons from each member country of the Summit will attend the Conference, and I should be very grateful if you would be good enough to recommend three outstanding authorities (for example, one from among natural scientists with a deep knowledge in the field of life sciences and two from among social scientists, philosophers, religious leaders, etc.), who are regarded as well-qualified as participants from your country.

By its nature, it will not be appropriate that the Conference be an inter-governmental meeting and thus it will be held under the auspices of the Japan Foundation and not the Government of Japan. Accordingly, the invitation will be sent directly to each participant by the Japan Foundation, and the participants will be expected to attend in their private capacities and express their views freely.

It is my earnest hope that the Conference will provide us with many valuable suggestions and insights on problems commonly shared by all mankind, such as how life sciences ought to be conducted in future and how human society could benefit as a result of progress in life sciences

sciences. I believe that the Conference would provide a good foundation upon which to explore ways and means of arranging future international cooperation in this field.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Yasuhiro Nakasone
Prime Minister of Japan