



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 December 1983

Dear Norman Thorn,

At Williamsburg earlier this year you kindly accepted my offer to hold the 1984 Economic Summit in the United Kingdom. I should like now to invite you formally to the Summit, which I plan to hold in London on the weekend of 8-10 June. I understand from the discussions between our Personal Representatives that these dates are generally acceptable. I propose to announce them very shortly in the usual way: my Personal Representative will be in touch with yours about the text and timing of the announcement.

I have chosen Lancaster House as the venue for our meetings. I am sure that it will provide a good setting for a relaxed and workmanlike Summit, which will enable us to have a discussion of the principal economic issues confronting our nations.

I propose that the programme for the Summit should broadly follow the format established at Williamsburg and at earlier Summits. Her Majesty The Queen intends to invite participants to a State Dinner on the final evening of 10 June.

My officials will be in touch with yours about the administrative details. I am conscious that as usual the Summit will attract very considerable press coverage. We shall ensure that all the necessary facilities and modern technology are made available to the world press. At the same time I am convinced that we should all do our best to discourage in advance any exaggerated expectations about instant solutions to major world problems.

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I attach great importance to preserving the relaxed and informal nature of our discussions and to avoiding speculation about winners and losers. The latter point will be particularly important for those of us who are concerned with the elections to the European Parliament. I propose that the sequence of Personal Representatives meetings, and the preparation of a Thematic Paper, should be on much the same lines as before. I also consider that we should broadly retain the pattern set at Williamsburg for separate meetings of Heads of State or Government, Foreign Ministers and Finance Ministers.

I believe we all agree that our discussions should not be trammelled by too much advance preparation. The final communique or Declaration should reflect in general terms the current of debate at the Summit itself. This will be, like its predecessors, an Economic Summit, and I do not envisage having a series of prepared discussions between Heads of State or Government on political subjects. We shall, however, have opportunities, as at past Summits, for informal exchanges of view on political issues, and we obviously cannot exclude the possibility that at the last moment the march of events may oblige us to discuss some major political issue of urgent importance.

We shall wish to review the state of the world economy, and the prospects for sustaining soundly-based recovery, building on the consensus we achieved at Williamsburg. What the main themes are likely to be will become clearer as we come closer to the Summit. I shall hope to exchange views with you on this myself in the months ahead, and the work that our Personal Representatives will be doing will, I am sure, lay foundations for a useful and constructive discussion when we meet in June.

I much look forward to welcoming you to London next year for the 1984 Economic Summit. As our preparations gather pace, I should greatly value your own thoughts on the scope and aims of the Summit.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Gaston Thorn.