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Subject copy filed on Economic Policy,
Williamsburg Economic Summit, Pt 11

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T195/82

Dear Margaret:

Over the past few weeks, since sending you my invitation to the Summit meeting at Williamsburg, I have been reflecting on the two summits I have attended -- their weak and strong points, what to repeat, and what to avoid. As we start down the road to Williamsburg, I would like to express some of my preliminary thoughts, and to ask you for yours.

For my part, I believe these meetings are an especially valuable opportunity for frank, candid, and direct conversation among the eight of us. The problems we face cannot be reduced to structured agendas and short "talking points." We need the time and the atmosphere for an informal "give-and-take" -- beyond the headlines and away from the klieg lights. George Shultz's reports on his extremely productive conversations in New York -- and the informal NATO weekend in Canada -- serve to strengthen my preference for an informal and largely unstructured weekend at Williamsburg.

The danger of excessive expectations is also inherent in meetings of the heads of the seven most powerful economies. We need to consider how we can convey publicly the true nature of these meetings without making them appear pointless.

The serious state of the global economy -- and most of ours individually -- compels us to search for answers. The Summit should help us in that search. That is my objective. The industrial democracies -- and our dedication to freedom, peace, and prosperity -- surely are more than equal to the challenges we face.

Allen Wallis, whom I have named as my personal representative for the Summit, will be in Europe the week of October 25, to discuss some of these ideas with your representatives. I also look forward with great interest to receiving from you directly your reactions to these preliminary thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

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