

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING OF MINISTERS AT 1700 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY:

WILLIAMSBURG

This is the first Ministerial Meeting to consider policy for Williamsburg.

The Sherpas will meet again on:

- (a) Friday, 16 April in Williamsburg;
- (b) In Mid-May at a venue to be arranged.

Alan Walters will, as you wished, attend (b) but not (a).

The United States are inviting Trade Ministers to attend ^a ~~the~~ preparatory meeting on 27/28 April in Brussels - and Finance Ministers to attend a further meeting on 10/11 May in Paris.

I attach Sir Robert Armstrong's report of 23 March on the last Sherpa meeting in San Diego. I also attach a minute by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 16 March and President Reagan's message of 28 January.

The main aim of your meeting will be to give Sir Robert Armstrong Ministerial guidance for the next Sherpa meeting. I suggest you take three subjects in turn:

(a) The General Economic Situation

(Paragraphs 5-9 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute)

What should the main message of Williamsburg be?

Perhaps the Chancellor should lead on this.

(b) International Trade and Debt Financing

(Paragraphs 10-14 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute)

The Minister of Trade and the Chancellor could lead on these subjects.

/(c)

(c) East/West Economic Relations

(Paragraphs 15-17 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could lead.

The main current issue is whether, as the United States insist, this should be a separate item on the Agenda.

A.J.C.

12 April 1983