

cc: Mr. Ingham

*Mo*

PRIME MINISTER

**VENICE ECONOMIC SUMMIT: BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN**

President Reagan has now suggested that you have a bilateral from 0850 - 0910 hours on the Tuesday morning at his hotel and subsequently travel together to the opening session of the Summit.

This is probably the only practicable way to fit in a bilateral. My worry is that the time allocated will enable the Opposition to make play with your having 'only 20 minutes' with the President, the same charge as was made so damagingly against Mr. Kinnock. It will of course not be true: you will be spending time with the President at the dinner, at the Heads of Government session and on the journey to it. Nonetheless, it could stick, particularly since a good part of that 20 minutes is likely to be taken up with photocalls.

If you agree, therefore, I intend to go back to the Americans, and press hard for an earlier start (say 0830 hours) to give time for a proper discussion.

Agree?

*Yes not*

*CDP*

C.D. POWELL  
18 May 1987

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*P.S. Charlie Rice has subsequently telephoned me about this meeting, & I have put to him the idea of an earlier start, to allow sufficient time to cover all the outstanding issues. CDP 1275.*