

The EW statement is very badly drafted. It does not sound as if we are a real alliance. The terrorism in north Africa is a very serious problem. I strongly support it.

Prime Minister
This note covers the draft declarations on East/West terrorism.

Ref. A087/1393

MR POWELL

Venice Economic Summit: Political Issues

Your strong view - supported by the Germans - that an East/West declaration is not necessary, is on record. The contingency text is too inoffensive. But

At the final meeting of Personal Representatives over the weekend, it was again agreed that there should be no general political declaration from the Venice Summit, of the kind that had been made from the last three Summits.

there is an important omission from para. 6 of the text, which we ought to remedy. Agree

East/West Relations

2. I made it clear that it remained the Prime Minister's view that the Venice Summit did not need to, and should not, issue a declaration on East/West relations. I was supported by the German Personal Representative, who said that the Federal Chancellor took the same view. The United States Political Director, Mrs Ridgeway, clearly remained of the view that it would be very odd for the Seven-power Summit leaders not to make some kind of statement on the subject; and I think that that remains the view of the Italian Presidency. The Japanese Government would also like to see such a declaration issued from one of the international gatherings at which they are represented.

proposed addition?
COB
12/5

Yes - very much - so - not

3. We continued to discuss a draft text, on the basis that it would be useful to have one available if, at the Summit itself, Heads of State or Government decided that they wanted to issue one. I attach as Annex A a draft offered as "a personal contribution of the Personal Representatives in case a decision to issue a text is taken". This draft was agreed at a meeting attended by Personal Representatives and Political Directors.

Terrorism

4. The meeting of Personal Representatives and Political Directors also discussed a draft statement on terrorism, and a text was agreed for submission to Heads of State or Government (copy attached as Annex B). The discussion of the draft became acrimonious in its later stages, mainly because of the refusal of the French Personal Representative to include any words which even remotely suggested that there might be further activity on terrorism within the framework of the Summit countries: he kept saying that, while his President certainly did not exclude the possibility of continuing discussions on terrorism among the Summit countries, he remained totally opposed to any institutionalisation of such discussions. This was presented as a position of principle: we were told that the French President was not prepared to accept that the Summit should be institutionalised for any purpose other than for holding and preparing the annual Economic Summit meetings. This attitude infuriated the United States Personal Representative, who clearly felt that it was another case where the European countries were tending to thicken their own relationship to the exclusion of the United States, in a context in which the United States would like to be, and had good reason to be, closely involved in the discussions.

AIDS and Drugs

5. Personal Representatives agreed statements on AIDS and drugs, the texts of which are appended to the thematic paper, which I am submitting separately. These statements would not be included in the economic declaration and would not be issued as a declaration; they would simply be released to the press by the chairman of the meeting (the Italian Prime Minister), probably as oral statements but with copies made available, some time on Tuesday 9 June.

Other Political Issues

6. It was agreed that there should be no other statements or declarations on political issues unless the situation at the time made such statements necessary. The majority of Personal Representatives once again agreed that there should be no statement on South Africa, but the Canadian Personal Representative, while noting the view of the majority, reserved her Prime Minister's right to propose a draft to his colleagues at Venice.

7. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18 May 1987

Draft statement on East-West relations

(Personal contribution of the Personal Representatives
in case a decision to issue a text is taken)

3. Within existing alliances each of us⁷ is resolved to maintain a strong and credible defence which threatens the security of no-one, and protects freedom, deters aggression and maintains peace. We shall continue to consult closely on all matters affecting our common interest. We will not be separated from the principles that guide us all.

of course!

4. We are following with close interest recent developments in the internal and external policies of the Soviet Union. It is our hope that they will prove to be of great significance for the improvement of political, economic and security relations between the countries of East and West. At the same time, profound differences persist; each of us must remain vigilantly alert in responding to all aspects of Soviet policy.

5. In this connection we will be paying close attention to Soviet actions on issues of common concern to us, and in particular :

- on respect for human rights and genuine democracy, and on freer movement of people and ideas;
- on early and peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. We look for immediate and total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan so that the people of Afghanistan may be free to determine their own future.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to peace and increased security at lower levels of arms. We seek a comprehensive effort to lower tensions and to achieve verifiable arms reductions. We note with satisfaction that dialogue on arms control has intensified and that more favourable prospects have emerged for the reduction of nuclear forces. We appreciate US efforts to negotiate balanced, substantial and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. We believe that these goals should be actively pursued and translated into concrete agreements. We urge the Soviet Union to negotiate in a positive and constructive manner. In this context, we emphasize our determination to achieve conventional stability at a lower level of forces and the total elimination of chemical weapons.

At the same time, we recognize that nuclear weapons will continue to have an important role in preserving peace.

An effective resolution of these issues is an essential requirement for real and enduring stability in our world.

7. While determined to preserve peace and protect our security, we look for closer economic and cultural relations of mutual benefit, and for greater contact and more active interchange of ideas between our people and the people of the Soviet Union and of the countries of Eastern Europe. This will contribute to the greater trust and confidence which are needed as a foundation for a stable and constructive relationship between the countries of East and West.

Draft statement on terrorism

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major democracies and the Representatives of the European Community assembled here in Venice, profoundly aware of our peoples' concern at the threat posed by terrorism,

-- resolutely condemn all forms of terrorism, including aircraft hijackings and hostage-taking, and reiterate our belief that whatever its motives, terrorism has no justification;

-- confirm the commitment of each of us to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors;

-- remain resolved to apply, in respect of any state clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, effective measures within the framework of international law and in our own jurisdictions;

-- welcome the progress made in international cooperation against terrorism since we last met in Tokyo in May 1986;

-- reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism both through national measures and through international cooperation among ourselves and with others, when appropriate, and therefore renew our appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international cooperation in all appropriate fora;

-- will continue our efforts to improve the safety of travellers. We welcome improvements in airport and

maritime security, and encourage the work of ICAO and IMO in this regard. Each of us will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines clearly implicated in supporting terrorism. (*) The Heads of State or Government have decided on measures, annexed to this statement, to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation;

- commit ourselves to support the rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. We will work with each other and with other countries as and when appropriate and in the relevant fora, within the framework of domestic and international law on

(*) Sentence to be checked.

the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of
terrorists. In particular we reaffirm the
principle established by relevant international
conventions of trying or extraditing, according to
national laws and those international conventions,
those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

ANNEX

The Heads of State or Government recall that in their Tokyo Statement on International Terrorism they agreed to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation. To this end, in cases where a country refuses extradition or prosecution of those who have committed offences described in the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and/or does not return the aircraft involved, the Heads of State or Government are jointly resolved that their Governments shall take immediate action to cease all flights to that country.

At the same time, their Governments will initiate action to halt all incoming flights from that country or from any country by the airlines of the country concerned.

The Heads of State or Government intend also to extend the Bonn Declaration in due time to cover any future relevant amendment to the above Convention or any other aviation conventions relating to the extradition or prosecution of the offenders.

The Heads of State or Government urge other Governments to join them in this commitment.