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FM THE PRESIDENT

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TO THE PRIME MINISTER

SECRET DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS 04051991

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TO: PRIME MINISTER WILSON

FROM: PRESIDENT FORD

OCTOBER 28, 1975

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I WANTED TO CONVEY TO YOU MY SATISFACTION WITH THE PROSPECT OF THE SUMMIT MEETING NEXT MONTH. I GREATLY LOOK FORWARD TO A FULL AND CANDID REVIEW OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS WE ALL FACE TOGETHER. THE SPIRIT OF THE PREPARATORY WORK SINCE HELSINKI SUGGESTS THAT WE WILL HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE IMPULSE TO COOPERATIVE APPROACHES AMONG THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND THUS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR POLITICAL RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES BEFORE US.

I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH ONE ASPECT OF THE SUMMIT: THE CONTINUED RESISTANCE OF OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUE TO THE INCLUSION OF CANADA. I AM SURE ALL OF US WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE MORE LIMITED MEETING OF FIVE LEADERS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL IMPERATIVES THAT REQUIRED THE INCLUSION OF ITALY. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS CLEAR THAT ONCE THIS OCCURRED THE CANADIANS HAD A MOST LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO COME AS WELL. INDEED, FOR US IN THE UNITED STATES THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION THAT A COUNTRY WHICH IS OUR LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, WHOSE ECONOMY IS SO INTIMATELY INTERTWINED WITH OURS AND WHICH CLEARLY RANKS AS A LEADING ECONOMIC POWER IN THE WORLD WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENT AT THE SUMMIT ONCE IT WAS ENLARGED BEYOND THE ORIGINAL FIVE.

AS A MATTER OF PROCEDURE, I FIND IT QUITE DISMAYING

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

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THAT ONE MEMBER OF A GROUP SHOULD CLAIM A VETO IN A MATTER OF SUCH OBVIOUS CONCERN TO THE OTHERS. I CONSIDERED HOLDING UP THE SUMMIT ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL THE CANADIAN ISSUE WAS SETTLED BUT DECIDED AGAINST SUCH TACTICS BECAUSE I FELT THEY WERE UNWORTHY AMONG FRIENDS AND ALLIES AND I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUE WOULD PERSIST IN A POSITION THAT COULD ONLY DETRACT FROM THE PROMISE OF THE ENTERPRISE ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKED AND WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SO STRONGLY ADVOCATED.

I AM NOT CERTAIN WHAT STEPS YOU MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE TO HELP BRING THIS ISSUE TO A CONCLUSION. I HAVE HAD A SO FAR FRUITLESS EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH GISCARD AND I HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHO HAS EXCHANGED MESSAGES WITH GISCARD AND ALSO SPOKE TO HIM ON THE PHONE BUT SO FAR WITHOUT RESULT. THE JAPANESE HAVE STRONGLY INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT OF CANADIAN PARTICIPATION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH TOKYO. I PROPOSE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH GISCARD AGAIN SHORTLY.

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, I DID WANT YOU TO KNOW MY OWN VIEWS ON THIS MATTER AND TO BE AWARE OF MY CONCERN THAT THIS UNFORTUNATE AND, IN MY VIEW, UNNECESSARY EPISODE COULD CLOUD THE OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

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