

MR POWELL *COB*

8 December 1986

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

I confirm that this conference, as you imply in your letter to Sir Antony Acland 4/12/86, reached no very helpful conclusion and, as you state, it was inadequately organised.

You should perhaps be aware I am continuing my study of the subject which will include some points raised in Paris.

None of the three ministers who attended have sent written thanks to the White House, nor have I. If a letter is appropriate could you let me know.

*pp* *S. Hartley Booth*

HARTLEY BOOTH



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*From the Private Secretary*

4 December 1986

International Conference on Private Sector Initiatives

Your telegram no. 2815 about the US-organised Conference on Private Sector Initiatives in Paris was seen by the Prime Minister. She went to some trouble to ensure that there was adequate British representation and a number of Ministers kindly agreed to attend. However, when dealing in future with those concerned with this Conference you may like to have in mind:

- i. the Prime Minister has no recollection of the matter being raised with her in the margins of the Tokyo Economic Summit;
- ii. it is not true, as was alleged by the organisers, that the matter was raised with the Prime Minister by President Reagan at Camp David;
- iii. those at this end who contacted the organisers to make arrangements for British Ministers to attend spoke of hopeless muddle and worse; and
- iv. one of the Ministers who attended has said that, to put it charitably, the organisation of the Conference left a great deal to be desired.

I record all this only to say that a lot of people did go to considerable trouble to be helpful in response to your appeal; but it sounds as though the White House over-sold their Conference considerably.

CHARLES POWELL

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG, KCVO.