

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

File Bre

19 May 1983

Thank you for your letter of 12 May.
The point is well taken.

The Prime Minister may not have made a specific issue of the Export Administration Act in her talk with Ed Meese but she did express disapproval of US protectionist trends in general. There should be opportunities to be more specific at Williamsburg and I shall bear your letter in mind.

A. J. COLES

R.Q. Braithwaite, Esq. C.M.G.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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Personal & Confidential




Washington

12 May

Dear John,

On an entirely personal basis (naturally!) I enclose a copy of a letter I recently wrote to Sunderland in the DoT about the need for personal interventions at a high political level if our credibility over the EAA is to be preserved.

Of course the Americans are sovereign to pass what legislation they like, and the EAA is only enabling legislation



anyway. But we need to raise the political consciousness here, not only to get changes in the EAA, but also to get people to understand they are laying the ground for serious alliance rows in future.

And there is also a logical link with US ~~extra~~territorial claims elsewhere, e.g. Lakes - BA - BCal.

Hope you're enjoying yourself. Work is super - real work to be done.

Yours

Rodric



British Embassy

3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington DC 20008

Telex Domestic USA 89-2370/89-2384

Telex International G4224(WUI)/248308(RCA)/440015(ITT)

Telephone (202) 462-1340

G R Sunderland Esq
OT2
Dept of Trade
LONDON

Your reference

Our reference

Date 9 May 1983

Dear Russell,

EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT: BRITISH POLITICAL CONCERN

1. I gather that the Prime Minister did not mention this subject when the President's adviser, Ed Meese, called on her last week.
2. I think that this was a pity. You will have seen all our reports to the effect that Administration officials are going around, notably on the Hill, arguing that the Europeans are not serious, since the issue is never raised on occasions when the highest political leaders meet (Kohl, for example, did not raise it with Reagan on his recent visit). Meese and Judge Clark are particularly assiduous in putting this argument to the President himself, or so at least we are told.
3. We are doing what we can to counter these arguments, for example by drawing the attention of Congressmen and Senators to public statements by our Ministers. I enclose a copy of a letter which the Ambassador has just sent to Congressmen.
4. But letters, and even speeches, are usually handcrafted by officials rather than by the Ministers who sign or deliver them; and the Americans know that. There is nothing like a personal word. I hope that the briefing for the Prime Minister's bilateral meeting with President Reagan can be adjusted accordingly: the excuse is in our telegram number 1154.

Yours ever,

Rodri

R Q Braithwaite