

PRIME MINISTER

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fa. Ant

Mr. Scott-Hopkins

When Mr. Scott-Hopkins called on you last Thursday, he told you that it was very probable that the European Parliament would throw out the 1980 EEC Budget. You made it clear that this project caused you no displeasure.

At a meeting of OD(E) earlier today, your colleagues came to the conclusion that a rejection of the Budget by the Parliament was likely to be, on balance, damaging to our interests and in particular to our chances of securing redress for our own budgetary problem. I will submit the minutes of the meeting to you as soon as they are available.

There is, of course, no question of trying to dissuade Mr. Scott-Hopkins from pursuing his opposition to the EEC Budget. But you may think it would be politic to indicate to him that he should not give the impression that your reaction at a private discussion represented the final view of HMG. If you agree I will arrange for this message to be passed to Mr. Scott-Hopkins informally.

Is it worth passing such a message? It would only indicate a fundamental difference of view. Ant

10 December 1979

As it has no effect on his action and as I revised my view (wrongly) on a previous occasion -

double, better - I will be 1/2 next week
of course OD(E) will be - for ahead