

RESTRICTED

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59

From: J O Kerr

Date: 16 September 1988

cc: PS/Mrs Chalker
Sir J Fretwell
Mr Bayne
Mr Ratford
Mr Teasdale
Mr Fergusson
Mr Gore-Booth
Mr Lever
Mr Hulse
Miss Spencer
Mr Arthur
Mr Fry, WED
Mr Grant, News Dept

MWB 300/a
RECEIVED IN SECRETARY
16 SEP 1988
BY OFFICER
S.M. 9/9

PS

PRIME MINISTER'S BRUGES SPEECH: 20 SEPTEMBER

/ 1. I attach a draft reply to Mr Powell's letter of 14 September, covering his latest edition of the Bruges speech.

2. This edition buys some 80% of the suggestions set out in our 7 September version, which was strongly supported by the Chancellor and Lord Young. In the attached draft we are in effect trying to secure another 10%. The remaining 10% don't really matter (and concern areas where No 10 are probably incorrigible).

3. It thus looks as if our damage limitation exercise is heading for success. While it isn't going to pick up many tricks across the Channel, I don't think that the Bruges speech is now likely to cause trouble with Community partners, and I see no need for you to trouble the Secretary of State in Africa.

4. We have discussed the related issue of No 10 lobby briefings on the speech.

J O Kerr

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FROM: PS

Reference

POIAAQ

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO:
C D Powell Esq

Copies to:

A.C.S. Allan Esq, MHT

N. Thornton Esq, DTI

B.R. Hawthorn Esq, TUD

Mrs Shirley Slagg, MAFF

R.G. Lavelle Esq, Cab. Office

No 10

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES

1. The following are our drafting suggestions on the latest version of the Prime Minister's speech, circulated with your letter of 14 September:

i. Page 7: Delete "King William of Holland", insert "Prince William of Orange". (In the Low Countries he is/was not normally described as King of Holland.)

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John Kew
16/ix.

Enclosures flag(s)

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v. Pages 24/25: Delete the last sentence on p 24, and the 2 following paragraphs. (The US analogy seems unnecessary; and in its latest form is not strictly accurate, for throughout the 17th and most of the 18th century the colonists

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ix. Page 44: The last sentence, in its present form, is open to challenge on factual grounds. You will recall that we suggested that it read: "It should mean not only fewer regulations - replacing a cat's cradle of conflicting national rule-books - but simpler and clearer ones." The phrase in parentheses is in our view necessary: if it has to go it would be prudent to drop the whole sentence - the main point is of course covered in the previous paragraph.

x. Page 49: First sentence: Revise to read: "We must stick to reality, not rhetoric." While the message is the same, depersonalising the target in this way should remove the risk of giving offence to eg Mitterrand/Kohl/Lubbers/Gonzales.)

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MWB 30/9

17 SEP 1988

19/9/88

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 SEP 1988

16 September 1988

Jan Charles

2/14/9

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Yours ever
R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street