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Mr Wall, ECD (I)

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES: SECURITY/DEFENCE THEMES

1. We spoke last week about the outline you are preparing for the Prime Minister's speech in Bruges in September. I suggest something on the attached lines for the section dealing with defence/security issues.

MWB 30/9.  
2 JUL 1988

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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES: SECURITY/DEFENCE THEMES

1. <sup>A/</sup> Europe needs to develop its identity in security as in other areas. Different models so far used in different fields (economic integration, Eureka, EPC, ERM). Security/defence too needs its own model. Shape of this model has to take account of special features of European security:

- it involves very essence of sovereignty;
- it is, uniquely in the world, critically dependent on a system of deterrence based on both nuclear and conventional weapons;
- a purely Western European framework is neither possible or desirable. Europe's security must be organised to take account of the threat from the East and of the division of the European continent. And it must involve the United States and Canada.

2. We therefore need a special defence model. Fundamental element of this, and must remain, North Atlantic Alliance and closest possible relations with US. But Alliance's European members also need mechanism to develop and improve their own contribution.

3. Areas for activity among Europeans are:-

- equipment collaboration
- open procurement
- a clearer view of our arms control priorities
- closer bilateral cooperation in particular involving France and Spain whose forces are not integrated.

4. No single mechanism appropriate for all this. Eurogroup and IEPG have long-standing well defined roles and should continue. Maybe that one day Community could develop a defence dimension. But

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not a feasible prospect in the foreseeable future: includes one non-NATO member and is too heterogeneous. Key role therefore for Western European Union. Last November's WEU platform sets out realities of European security from a European perspective. Must now build in this. JA