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22nd November, 1978

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EMS

There are several important signs that the Government are going for some kind of partial commitment to EMS, or its associated procedures, and this may not be too unreasonable a way ahead. Information which I garnered over the weekend at a conference in Berlin attended by a number of prominent Europeans, the report in today's Times in the Business News, advice from a good source in Paris and from a Labour source all point to the Prime Minister and Healey going for something like the following: We would make contributions to the reserve fund; we would take part in the process of cc-ordination of policies; we would be ready to intervene ad hoc in international currency management; and we would be heavily involved in many if not all of the institutional procedures of the new scheme. The one thing we would not do would be to submit to the exchange rate disciplines.

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ADAM RIDLEY

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