

PM 8/20/80

CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER

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Cabinet: Community Affairs

The Cabinet will be aware that, at your request, the Lord Privy Seal is currently undertaking a series of bilateral visits as a follow-up to the Dublin European Council on our budget problem. These exchanges in Community capitals and with the Commission are timed to be completed before the end of the month when you are due to receive Signor Cossiga whose task it is to decide when to reconvene the European Council. The Lord Privy Seal will be reporting to you at the end of the series, and it would probably be best to defer his report to the Cabinet on his visits until he has completed the series. So far he has been to Rome, The Hague and Luxembourg.

2. You might like to tell the Cabinet of your meeting with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from the European Democratic Group on 8th January. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Lord Privy Seal met the same Group on 9th January.

3. At the Foreign Affairs Council on 15th January we are hoping to get agreement on a preferential trade regime for Rhodesia.

4. The Minister of Agriculture may wish to report further on the continuing French defiance of the European Court ruling on sheepmeat, also mentioned on 20th December. He is due to discuss this again with Commissioner Gundelach on 10th January.

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Stephen Walsh

for. ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9th January, 1980