

Mr Wall, ECD(I) *MWB Sec 19*

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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT BRUGES

1. You might find some of the following ideas useful in preparing this speech.

Possible Themes

- The state and the individual in Europe. The rights and responsibilities of each (go back to Greece?).
- Today, the modern state. But is a state the same as a nation? Nations vary in history, antiquity, language, etc etc. But often states are modern political artefacts - which not only provide essential shelter for their inhabitants (defence etc) but also run economies, industries, farm support policies etc. The nation is a community of people but a state is a set of institutions used to run society.
- "The State is but an agency entitled to use power and coercion, and made up of experts or specialists in public order and welfare, an instrument in the service of man .... man is by no means for the State. The State is for man". (J Maritain)
- It follows that man can change the role of the state. This we have done in Britain. This Europe as a whole is doing.
- Virtue of Treaty of Rome that it allows for expansion of liberty against might of member states. Moving from one market to unified market of 12 countries no simple matter - but on the whole of great benefit provided that European rules not more onerous than national/state rules.
- So move to Europe where states diminish in power but variety of peoples, cultures, languages enriched. Liberalisation versus harmonisation.
- Take food as an example? European cuisine enriches British diet - and spurs British cooks to higher endeavours. Now "British cuisine" a reality.
- Europe breaking new ground in politics of state/individual - as always. Progress today rests on moving with world tide of deregulation, openness and competition, not going against it.

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