

Secretary of State
(6)

From: J O Kerr

Date: 6 September 1988

cc: PS/Mrs Chalker
Sir J Fretwell
Mr Bayne o.r.
Mr Teasdale
Mr Fergusson
Mr Gore-Booth
Mr Lever
Mr Burns
Miss Spencer
Mr Arthur

MWTS 300/9

End 1/9

PS

PRIME MINISTER'S BRUGES SPEECH: 20 SEPTEMBER

- A
1. In his letter of 31 August, covering his first draft of the Prime Minister's Bruges speech, Mr Powell asked for comments, in the form of specific drafting amendments, by 7 September. While I think that the basic themes and structure of his draft were right, a good deal of the drafting seemed offbeam, and in some cases unnecessarily provocative. I therefore attach a complete revised draft which, if the Secretary of State agrees, you may wish to send forward to No 10.
 2. The only change to the structure is the addition of the "evolutionary change" section, covering the future financing negotiation. It struck me that it would be eccentric to pass over in complete silence one of the principal themes of UK EC policy in recent years. The language on the CAP included in that section, and the additional passage in the later GATT section, has been prepared in cooperation with the Cabinet Office and MAFF, in accordance with Mr Powell's letter of 2 September, and has been cleared by Mr MacGregor.
 3. Mr Powell is aware that our other suggested drafting amendments may be fairly extensive. He was reasonably receptive to the argument that it would be counter-productive to make the speech so controversial as to guarantee that it evokes replies/rebuttals. I think that the revised version avoids this trap, and that this may be the best way of selling it to No 10.
 4. I have in fact shown my redraft to Treasury, DTI, MAFF, and Cabinet Office officials, and have incorporated some suggestions from them. But I think it would be good tactics not to reveal this to No 10 at this stage. The other Departments will I think tell No 10 that they regard our version as greatly preferable to its predecessor: it might be best that such advice appears to be sua sponte!
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5. The redraft of course takes full account of the Secretary of State's comments on the original version, which you kindly relayed to me.

6. I attach a short draft covering letter to No 10.

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