

*cc Mr Whitmore*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

The Chancellor of the Exchequer called on the Prime Minister at 0845 hours today. The following are the main points which came up in discussion:

(i) EEC Budget

The Chancellor said that the Lord Privy Seal was establishing a small official group to assist him in developing our negotiating strategy on the EEC Budget issue. Four FCO officials were to be on this group, but only one Treasury official had been invited. While accepting that the FCO had to be in the lead, he felt that the Treasury had a crucial role to play; and therefore Treasury representation on the group should be on a par with the FCO. The Prime Minister agreed that Treasury representation should be stronger, and that - in addition to Sir Ken Couzens - there should be at least two other Treasury representatives. (We have since spoken to Sir Ian Gilmour's Office about this, and he is taking the necessary action.)

(ii) Treasury Appointments

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**ACT 2000** *for 40 years*

*CM Wayland  
6 July 2010*

(iii) Budget Date

The Chancellor said there were two options: either 25 March or 22 April. His own provisional preference was for 25 March mainly because the later date would involve

/ a loss

a loss of about £100 million (assuming the indirect taxes were revalorized). After the late Budget this year, he also did not want a repeat. The Prime Minister said that she agreed.

(iv) Monetary Policy

The Chancellor said that the Treasury were reviewing various aspects of monetary policy, including the Bank's performance in October and also the proposals for Monetary Base Control. He would be letting the Prime Minister have a note fairly soon. Moreover, he had promised a paper on monetary policy to Cabinet.

R.

20 December 1979