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the department for Enterprise

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19/14

Dear John,

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT BRUGES

As we agreed on Friday, I enclose a copy of the speech with suggested amendments in manuscript. I think these are self-explanatory and will not provide a long commentary. But a couple of general points:

- (i) Historians in the Department took a pretty dim view of nearly all the historical section - which is in any case too long. I have therefore gone in for some pretty drastic pruning. My learned friend Michael Johnson had particular views on the stuff about the origins of English law and language, which I enclose.
- (ii) The key passage which - in my view - demands amendment is on pages 27-30. Apart from provoking an inevitable response from Delors it seems to me to be attacking him for things he did not say. I have tried to tone all this down - but am not wedded to the language I have used.
- (iii) The implication of pages 37-38 on the European Central Bank is that the whole thing would be more feasible if only the others agreed to free movement of capital etc. As they have now done so, I wonder if that is what is meant?
- (iv) I have tried to follow through the apparently intended "my guidelines" structure of the speech. The guidelines at present vanish after the first two.



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- (v) If we have any more to say on agricultural reform, in the light of Charles Powell's letter of 2 September, we will contribute direct to Cabinet Office.
- (vi) Personally, I think the contrast between the pragmatic Brits and the inflated Utopian rhetoric of the Europeans is overdone, silly and patronising. Were Churchill's much-invoked thoughts at Zurich those of a "far-sighted man" or of a "distant and utopian" dreamer? (He was not, either, averse to the odd spot of inflated oratory.) I am at present reading Bullock on Bevin and came across an opposite quote on the train this morning. Bevin's response to Schuman, Spaak et al was "It was dangerous to launch big ideas and then to disappoint people". I do not however suggest that you propose to No. 10 that they include praise of the pragmatism and common-sense of the 1945 Labour government in contrast to the visionary approach of Churchill.

Yours ever,

Bill Stow

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cc Mr Roberts DTI
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