



MO 13/4V

1. cc *Mr Hewes* <sup>done 3/9</sup> *Mr Hewes* (47)  
 2. *Mr Arthur/p.a.* <sup>done 3/9</sup> *Mr Arthur* <sup>ps</sup> *Mrs Chalder*  
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*8/ix*

7 September 1988

*MWB 300/9*

12 SEP 1988

*R/M*  
*W*

*8/12/9*

*Dear Charles,*

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON EUROPE

Thank you for your letter of 31st August inviting comments on the first draft of the Prime Minister's speech for Bruges.

We are well content with the broad outline of the section on defence but offer a few detailed comments:

- ✓ a. Page 48 The use of "shameful" could raise hackles unproductively; 'regrettable' might help make a positive impact;
- b. Pages 50 and 52 "collaboration" tends to have specific connotations with equipment: "co-operation" might be preferable;
- c. Pages 50 - 51 The paragraph straddling these pages might, as drafted, offer a hostage to fortune for our eventual decision on a Chieftain replacement. We suggest that this specific reference to standardisation ("through the standardisation of equipment") be deleted - this is not the only means of obtaining better value for money.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Stephen Wall (FCO), Neil Thornton (DTI) and Roger Lavelle (Cabinet Office).

*Your sincerely,*  
*B R HAWTIN*  
 (B R HAWTIN)  
 Private Secretary

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