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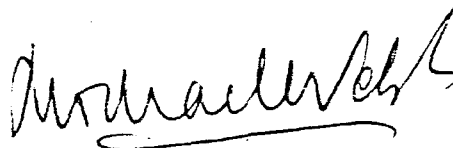
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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
- 8 SEP 1988		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
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FROM: M I P Webb
 DATE: 6 September 1988
 cc: PS/Mrs Chalker
 Mr Fergusson
 WED
 Mr Arthur

Mr Kerr ✓
 PS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES
 ON 20 SEPTEMBER

- A 1. No 10 have asked for historical background about the hall in which the Prime Minister is to speak and information about the College of Europe. I submit a draft Private Secretary letter and two booklets about the hall and the College.



M I P Webb
 European Community Department
 (Internal)

J. Kew
 Fix

FROM:

Reference

J S WALL
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

MD1ABC

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:
Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT: DRAFT MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES

CAVEAT

1. You wrote on 30 August for some background information on the hall in which the Prime Minister will speak and on the College of Europe itself:

(i) The Market Hall

The old Market Hall dates from the 13th century, when Bruges was becoming one of the great merchant cities of Europe, and a leading emporium for the Hanseatic League. In addition to serving as a covered market the halls were public meeting places. Up to 1769 all the city byelaws were announced to the people from the balcony overlooking the internal courtyard and these became known as "hall-commandments".

Stairs lead from the hall up inside the belfry tower. The belfry houses the famous Bruges carillon - a set of 47 fixed chromatically tuned bells sounded by hammers controlled from a keyboard - and the tower is some 260 feet in height.

Enclosures flag(s)

(ii) The College of Europe

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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The College was founded in 1949 and is the first of the modern institutes of European Studies. In the style of its curricula and the composition of its student body and professional staff the College resembles a medieval university. Modern financial support is provided by some EC member states, by Switzerland and by the Commission. The UK's annual contribution is £2,500 at present. Representatives of contributing states sit on the College's administrative council.

In 1988-89 there will be 207 students; the overwhelming majority from EC member states. Graduates from the College gain a diploma of advanced European Studies and many find employment in the Commission. This year the College has seven UK citizens among its students; France by comparison has 43 and Spain 36.