

RESTRICTED



FROM: M E DONNELLY
DATE: 18 January 1983

MRS HEDLEY-MILLER

cc PS/Chancellor
Mr Littler

Miss Court
Mr Edwards
Mr Peet
PS/Mr Hurd
Mr Hancock - Cab Office

EC BUDGET: NEXT STEPS

This note is to record the action to be taken following the meeting between the Financial Secretary, Robert Jackson MEP, Neil Balfour MEP, yourself and Mr Peet on 17 January.

1983 Supplementary Budget

It was agreed that the Financial Secretary would host a lunch in Strasbourg on Tuesday 8 February during the Plenary session of the Parliament. It would be for substantially the same group of influential MEPs that he lunched with during November, though extended if possible to include Socialists. Mr Peet agreed to liaise with UKREP over the details.

Mr Balfour and Mr Jackson suggested that it might be helpful for the Financial Secretary to address some of the Party Groups during their co-ordinating sessions in Brussels on 1 or 2 February. Mr Balfour agreed to check on the logistics of this and come back with firmer proposals. The Financial Secretary has already received a provisional invitation to address the EDG Group Meeting in London at the beginning of February.

It was agreed that continued attention should be paid to all MEPs before the critical votes in February and March. The Financial Secretary will liaise with Mr Hurd over possible initiatives here.

Officials agreed to consider the possibility of writing to MEPs setting out the UK case. This might be based on the wider briefing being put together for use in the longer term Budget negotiations. The timing of this remained a question for discussion; Mr Balfour and Mr Jackson felt that it would be helpful to produce some material aimed specifically at MEPs by 1 February, in order to influence internal Group discussions before the February Plenary session.

Longer Term Budget Negotiations

Officials agreed to produce a further draft of the possible speech aimed at the European Parliament, by the weekend if possible. This might be used as a basis for a handout at a press conference given by the Chancellor on 7 February in Brussels. Alternatively it could form the basis for a letter to MEPs; or as a speech to be given in Europe by another senior Minister.

MEJ
M E DONNELLY