

FOR APPROVAL

Market
P. M. Thompson

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
PRESS CONFERENCE AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON MONDAY, 4th JUNE 1984
(approved by Sir Geoffrey Howe on 1st June 1984)

The subject of the press conference will be the European Budget. They want your statement to concentrate on the refunds and Tony Shrimpsley is planning supporting graphics at the side of the platform showing how much we've got back each year.

From the beginning, the Conservative Government has believed in getting a fair deal for Britain in Europe. You cannot have a club with only two of the members forever paying the bills. The costs must be more fairly shared if the club is to thrive.

At the same time, there has got to be firm control of spending if the cost of running the club is not to soar out of control and threaten to bankrupt it.

So we are doing three things.

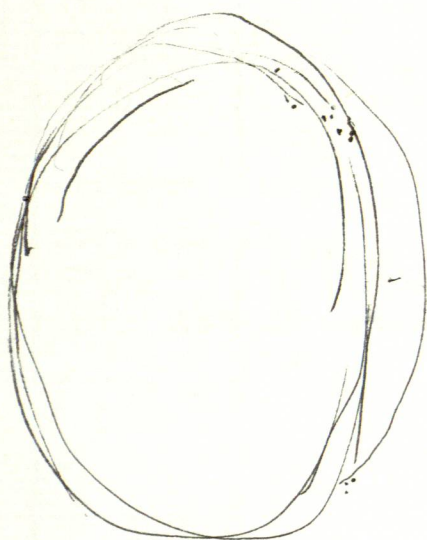
First, we have negotiated for Britain refunds worth £2½ billion.

£2 billion has actually been repaid to us already. The Community is committed to paying us the rest.

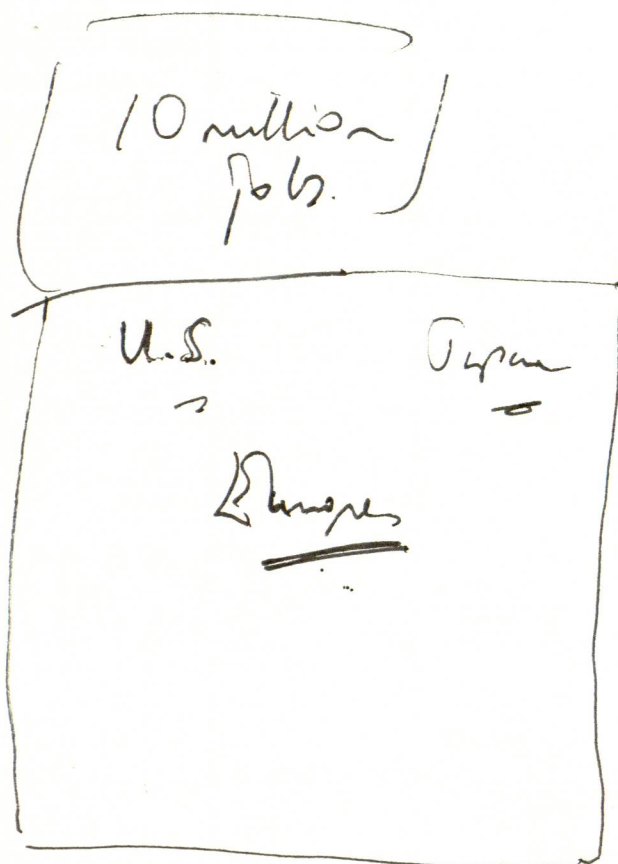
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Influence to learn

(3 milks)



Summary



We got these refunds because of tough bargaining. Some people, like the Alliance Parties, think we are too tough. My answer to them is - if we'd been less tough, we'd have got less for Britain. Other people, like the Labour Party, seem to think that refunds of £2½ billion are not enough. Well, its £2½ billion more than Labour got.

Secondly, we are at last hammering out a long-term system of finance, fair to all members, to prevent this haggling each year. That's real progress.

Third, we are taking steps to bring the Community's spending under firm control. In their manifestos, the other Parties show no interest in controlling spending - although they've got plenty of proposals to increase it.

Only the Conservatives have achieved progress on these three things.

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With the arguments about subscription costs out of the way we can concentrate on creating the kind of Community we want - a strong Community, an effective Community, a Community with a common purpose, based upon a truly common market. Only in this way can Europe attain its full stature in the world, and become the powerful influence for liberty and peace that we wish it to be.

SS

1.6.84



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Release Time:

RT HON MARGARET THATCHER FRS MP

10.00 HOURS/MONDAY 4TH JUNE 1984
430/84

Statement by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, at a European Elections Press Conference at Conservative Central Office, on Monday 4th June 1984.

From the beginning, the Conservative Government has believed in getting a fair deal for Britain in Europe. You cannot have a club with only two of the members forever paying the bills. The costs must be more fairly shared if the club is to thrive.

At the same time, there has got to be firm control of spending if the cost of running the club is not to soar out of control and threaten to bankrupt it.

So we are doing three things.

First, we have negotiated for Britain refunds worth £2½ billion. £2 billion has actually been repaid to us already. The Community is committed to paying us the rest.

We got these refunds because of tough bargaining. Some people, like the Alliance Parties, think we are too tough. My answer to them is - if we'd been less tough we'd have got less for Britain. Other people, like the Labour party, seem to think that refunds of £2½ billion are not enough. Well, it's £2½ billion more than Labour got.

/Secondly

Secondly, we are at last hammering out a long-term system of finance, fair to all members, to prevent this haggling each year. That's real progress.

Third, we are taking steps to bring the Community's spending under firm control. In their manifestos, the other Parties show no interest in controlling spending - although they've got plenty of proposals to increase it.

Only the Conservatives have achieved progress on these three things. The next stage is the European Heads of Government meeting at the end of June where we shall be working for further progress.

Once the arguments about subscription costs are out of the way we will then be able to concentrate on creating the kind of Community we want - a strong Community, an effective Community, a Community with a common purpose, based upon a truly common market. Only in this way can Europe attain its full stature in the world, and become the powerful influence for liberty and peace that we wish it to be.

End.