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TRANSPORT MEJ

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 November 1979

Original in CF

ha Horace

Thank you for your letter of 19 October about EEC interest in a possible fixed transport link across the Channel. I agree about the potential importance of a link to London and the South East, and indeed to the whole country, and I recognise the efforts you have made to focus public attention on this.

The EEC Commissioners have not yet agreed on their paper about Community support for transport "infrastructure". Its publication, originally expected early this year, has been substantially delayed.

However there are already indications that the Commission sees a fixed Channel link as a candidate for some kind of Community help. Let us see what the paper says before we commit ourselves. We must also have regard to other calls on our budget.

Sir Horace Cutler, O.B.E.

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