



FROM: FINANCIAL SECRETARY
DATE: 9 February 1983

cc RJ

(2)

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER —

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1983 EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUDGET REFUNDS

I went to Strasbourg yesterday for the latest in a series of lobbying discussions I have been having with MEPs and others about the Supplementary Budget for our 1982 refunds. I thought you would like to know the latest position.

The outlook is now more promising. The European Parliament's influential Budget Committee have not recommended any amendment to the draft 1983 Supplementary Budget agreed by the Council of Ministers in January. This contains provision for our agreed basic refund for 1982. The Parliament will debate this Budget on Thursday afternoon and on present plans will vote on it that evening. One can never count one's chickens, but my impression is that, although there will be some votes against it, mainly from the Socialist and Communist groups, the opposition will not be sufficient to block it.

All being well the Parliament should also give an opinion on the enabling Regulations for the UK's refunds. Provided that there is no further opposition in the Council, the way should then be clear for us to receive the main instalment of our basic refund by the 31 March deadline.

I am copying this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 February 1983

1983 European Community Budget Refunds

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of the Financial Secretary's minute of 9 February on the above subject.

A. J. COLES

Martin Donnelly, Esq.,
Financial Secretary's Office,
HM Treasury.

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