



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Please type reply.

London SW1A 2AH

A.S.C. 14/7

12 July 1983

Prime Minister:

*Agree to respond
as proposed?*

Dear Tim

R 12/7

Thank you for your letter of 11 July, in which you asked for advice on Mr Dankert's telex of 11 July to the Prime Minister about the restoration of capital punishment. I submit a draft reply from the Private Secretary.

The question of capital punishment does not fall within the competence of the European Parliament. However, the Parliament frequently expresses views on matters which are outside the scope of the Community Treaties. It would, of course, be open to us to ignore Mr Dankert's message. On balance, though, we think that this would not be desirable. The European Parliament will have a role to play over the Community budget during the next crucial months; this was the main justification for Mr Dankert's visit to Britain in late June. There is nothing to be gained by failing to observe the courtesies in this case. We suggest, however, that the reply should be limited to a simple acknowledgement; we would not wish to imply that we recognise the Parliament's competence by commenting on the substance of this message.

The Home Office agree with this proposal.

I am sending a copy of this letter with its enclosure to Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

*See on
type Bon*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing St

minute/letter/teletextor/deparch/more

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

Private Secretary
10 Downing St

Reference

TEL. NO:

TO:

Mr Pieter Dankert
President of the European Parliament
Centre European
Plateau du Kirchberg
Luxembourg

Your Reference

Copies to:

(Telex 3494 and 2894 EUPARL LU)

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your telex of 11 July about
tal punishment. The Prime Minister has noted
views.

CAVEAT.....

CAVEAT.....

Enclosures—flag(s).....