

Ref. A086/384

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Community Affairs

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may report that the Dutch Presidency proposes that the text incorporating the results of the Intergovernmental Conference should be signed on 17 February. It is expected that 10 or 11 member states would sign then - the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mrs Chalker) would sign for the United Kingdom - with the Danes signing after their referendum (if favourable, as is expected) and with the Greeks possibly a little late. The text can only enter into effect when signed by all 12 Governments and approved by all 12 Parliaments.

2. The only Council this week has been the 4 February Internal Market Council, at which the Minister for Trade (Mr Clark) represented the United Kingdom. The Dutch Presidency usefully put pressure on the Commission and on member states to speed up the implementation of the programme for completing the Community's internal market. This is an area in which we and the Dutch have agreed a rolling programme for our successive Presidencies. The Minister for Trade supported the Presidency and welcomed their emphasis on the importance of progress, in particular on technical standards and public procurement.

3. No Councils are scheduled for the coming week.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5 February 1986