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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 February 1986

**UK PRESIDENCY: REPORTING ON THE
LONDON EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

Thank you for your letter of 24 February about the Prime Minister's report to the European Assembly in Strasbourg on the outcome of the London European Council.

The Prime Minister has agreed to deliver her report on Tuesday 9 December, following the timetable set out in your letter of 3 February. This means that she will plan on making a statement to the House on the outcome of the Council on Monday 8 December.

I am copying this letter to David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

(Charles Powell)

C. R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

UK PRESIDENCY: REPORTING ON THE LONDON EUROPEAN COUNCIL

You agreed to deliver a report to the European Assembly on the outcome of the European Council held during our Presidency. But you were not happy with the proposed date of Wednesday 10 December because it would run you up against a planned speaking engagement to the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. The advice of the business managers is that you should report to the House before you report to the European Assembly. Moreover the European Assembly does not roll up on the Monday until well into the evening.

This points to a Statement in the House on Monday 8 December; and a report to the European Assembly on Tuesday 9 December (missing Questions).

Content?

Yes not

CDP

CDP

24 February 1986

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CRB



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 February 1986

Dear Charles,

UK Presidency: Reporting on the London European
Council

Thank you for your letter of 4 February about the Prime Minister's report to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the outcome of the London European Council.

Sir Geoffrey Howe considers that it would be undesirable for the Prime Minister to give the report on Monday 8 December. The Parliament's monthly session does not normally begin until 1700 hours and many MEPs will not have arrived in Strasbourg by then. Moreover, reporting first to Strasbourg and only afterwards to the House of Commons would seem liable to attract criticism in the House.

The Foreign Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should make her report on Tuesday 9 December, within the timetable indicated in my letter of 3 February.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
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ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΕΥΡΩΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟΥ in The Hague: Pt 25

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