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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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JM/PSO/8588/86

The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Department of Trade and Industry
1-19 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H 0ET

8 July 1986

C089/7

Dear Paul,

UK PRESIDENCY OF THE EC: INTERNAL MARKET ACTION PROGRAMME

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 24 June to Geoffrey Howe.

I am afraid that the disappointing start made by the Dutch Presidency on the internal market generally has been reflected in the Transport Council. As you may have heard, at their final Council the Dutch Presidency failed to get agreement on the four shipping measures in the rolling programme and secured only modest Council conclusions on aviation. We did get reasonably positive conclusions on the arrangements for liberalising road haulage. But we now need a formal Commission proposal and considerable work may then still need to be done before we are in a position to attempt a binding instrument. We have, therefore, a hard slog ahead of us and the chances of making substantial progress in the next six months are no longer as good as we once hoped.

I agree that it would be useful to remind other Member States of the connection between our work in the Transport Council and the commitment to complete the internal market. I did in fact make this point clearly at the last Transport Council of the Dutch Presidency, which took place on the day before our own Presidency began, and I shall certainly repeat it when I write to my Community colleagues about the organisation of work in our Presidency.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of OD(E) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Moore
JOHN MOORE

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London

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