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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1986

Dear Tim,

LONDON EUROPEAN COUNCIL: 5-6 DECEMBER

The Prime Minister has seen the Trade and Industry Secretary's minute of 19 November in which he expresses the hope that there will be some reference in the conclusions of the European Council to the importance of ensuring that consumer interests are taken into account in the formulation of Community policies.

My letter of 14 November to Christopher Capella made clear that the Prime Minister did not want such a reference under the business and jobs item of the Council's conclusions. She is not averse to a brief reference to the consumer interest at some other point in the Council's conclusions, if one can be found.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to the Paymaster-General, to the Private Secretaries to other members of OD(E) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

CHARLES POWELL

Timothy Walker, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister
What you actually said
was reference to
consumer interests should not
be in the Business and Jobs
section.

LONDON EUROPEAN COUNCIL: 5-6 DECEMBER

Presumably you don't ✓
object to a brief referen
elsewhere?

I have seen your Private Secretary's letter of 14 November
to Kenneth Clarke's office about this. Unfortunately Kenneth
Clarke's undated minuted which was sent to you on 13 November
was not in fact copied to all members of OD(E) as it stated
until yesterday.

CDP
Pruce
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Although I support what Kenneth Clarke says generally about
deregulation, I have to say that it is misleading to describe
as 'consumerism' the kind of reference to consumer issues
which officials have been discussing for inclusion in the
European Council conclusions. What I have in mind would be a
fairly limited paragraph noting to the importance of ensuring
that consumer interests are taken into account in the
formulation of Community policies.

Such a reference would have two substantial advantages.
First, it should help with our overall objectives in other
policy areas such as the CAP and transport where the consumer
interest is largely ignored in Brussels. Secondly, the
progress which Michael Howard has made in the Consumer
Council towards a policy more related to actual consumer
needs is a popular message to convey to ordinary people in
this country. Drawing attention to it in the European
Council conclusions would in practice also reinforce our
efforts to move those in the European Commission responsible
for consumer policy away from their regulatory approach. The
conflict which Kenneth Clarke fears would be less likely to
happen if we could secure agreement to suitable follow-up

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conclusions at the European Council. The draft which officials have been discussing seems to me to make it clear that our work on regulations and on consumer policy is pulling in the same direction. Endorsement in the European Council of the progress made on the latter subject would strengthen the overall message which we are trying to convey.

I very much hope therefore that you will reconsider the case for including a short refernece to the consumer interest.

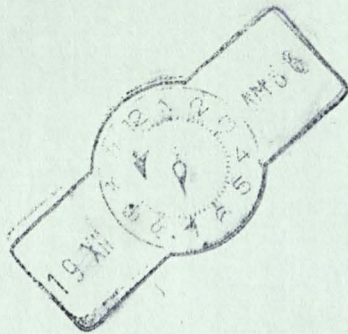
I am copying this to members of OD(E) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PC
PAUL CHANNON

19 November 1986

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Euro Pol: Euro Council Meeting
in London PT23



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