



From the Secretary of State

CONFIDENTIAL

John Coles Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

2 December 1982

Dear John,

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES

1 Since Lord Cockfield's minute to the Prime Minister adding to the brief on this subject, we have heard from Paris that President Mitterrand's first priority at the Council will be to reach a common position on the need to strengthen the Common Market in the face of third country imports. As well as being predictably muscular on Japan and the United States of America, the French may refer once more to their proposals for strengthening the instruments of the Common Commercial Policy.

2 These proposals date back to April, and have been the subject of considerable work in Brussels. The most contentious idea is the establishment of a body along the lines of the United States International Trade Commission, which could similarly harass imports. We see quite a lot of merit in the French ideas, although any proposition put forward by the French needs to be scrutinised with more than ordinary care. Subject to this, we have been working to get the French proposals into a reasonable shape. But not all our partners agree. Work in Brussels is nearing its final stages. There seems little point in trying to pre-empt its conclusions by decisions at the European Council.

3 I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to Member of OD(E) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN RHODES
Private Secretary

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Export and Import



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