OWN RESOURCES CEILING

If pressure develops for a commitment to increase own resources at the time of enlargement and the Germans weaken, the Prime Minister should make the following points.

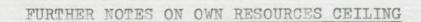
- The determining factor in the pressure on the own resources ceiling is CAP expenditure and not enlargement. If CAP expenditure could be brought under effective control and grow less rapidly than own resources, then there would be money not only for enlargement but also for other policies.
- In any case, the whole discussion is premature. The Commission say that they will produce a paper next year. We cannot be expected to express views today about a paper which we have not even seen.
- The Commission would be well advised to concentrate 3. their attention on the point that really matters, namely agricultural surpluses and how they can be contained. Heads of Government also need to be informed about the reasons for the recent change in the trend of agricultural expenditure and what should be done about it. Heads of Government should receive papers on these points before they are expected to look at papers about the own resources system. We must do things in the right order.

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- 1 Ministers of Agriculture fight for the interests of their farmers. That is their job. Heads of State and Government have wider responsibilities to all Community citizens, consumers and taxpayers as well as farmers; and for the Community's place in the world.
- In our national governments none of us would allow our Ministers of Agriculture to spend public money without limit.

 In the Community we must insist on the same standards of value for money as at home.
- We must do first things first. Let us see an assessment of the trend of expenditure on the CAP and the outlook for agricultural surpluses. Then, in the light of that analysis, we shall be better placed to consider what the Commission may have to say to us about the changes needed in the financial system as a whole.