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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

President of the European Commission

M. Thorn's Chef du Cabinet told me in Copenhagen on Friday that the President of the Commission would very much welcome a visit to Brussels by you and me in the near future. M. Durieux said that the President would wish us to lunch with him and have a series of meetings in the Commission.

I discussed this briefly with Sir Michael Butler who thought a visit would be a good idea, providing it was well timed in relation to developments on the UK budget problem.

I told M. Durieux that I did not think that a visit would be possible before Christmas but that we could certainly look into the possibility in the New Year. You have subsequently told me that you will be seeing M. Durieux this weekend and will discuss the matter with him then.

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

6 December 1982