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Briefing Meeting, 17 March at 4.00 pm

Now that the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the European Council has been decided (your letter of 8 March to

Now that the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the European Council has been decided (your letter of 8 March to Mr Bone) you will wish to decide who should attend the Prime Minister's pre-Council briefing meeting on 17 March at 4.00 pm.

2. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer because both the Community Budget and general economic problems are likely to be of great importance in the discussions at the European Council. In addition, it would be appropriate to invite the following officials:-

Sir Julian Bullard
Sir Michael Butler
Sir Brian Hayes
Sir Kenneth Couzens
Mr David Hannay
Mr David Hancock
Mr Brian Unwin
Mr Robin Gray

I have suggested that officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department of Trade and the Department of Energy be invited to the briefing meeting as well since agricultural trade issues and oil prices are likely to figure. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might wish to be accompanied by Mr Unwin.

3. Sir Robert Armstrong, Mr Geoffrey Littler and Mr Richard Evans who will be accompanying the Prime Minister to Brussels will all be unable to attend the briefing meeting as they will be at the Personal Representatives meeting in San Diego preparing for the Williamsburg Economic Summit.

LINDSAY WILKINSON

10 March 1983

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