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Qz.03460

MR COLES

cc: Sir Robert Armstrong

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12  
h.a.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 4-6 DECEMBER: PREPARATION OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM POSITION

I have spoken to Mr Barclay and I now confirm, in response to your minute of 17 November to Miss Wilkinson, that:

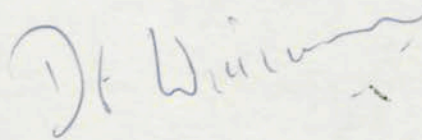
- at the Ministerial discussion of our negotiating situation which the Prime Minister is holding at 5.30pm on 1 December, the Ministers whom you have already invited (Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry) will be accompanied by one official each. Sir Michael Butler and I will also be present. This meeting is intended to establish the main lines of our negotiating approach for the European Council. For this purpose the European Secretariat of the Cabinet Office has already submitted two papers, under cover of my minute of 28 November. I understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is submitting a minute about the various solutions being proposed by other member states for dealing with the budget inequity and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may submit a minute bringing up-to-date the situation following the meeting of the Special Council which ended today;
  
- in addition to the major negotiating issues we recommend that at this meeting a decision on the size of the ESPRIT programme could be taken (the other major question relating to ESPRIT and similar programmes, namely the /effect

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effect on departmental budgets, will have been dealt with at the meeting of E(A) at 11.30am on 1 December);

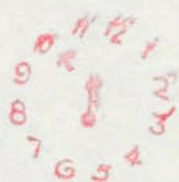
- we assume that this discussion will cover all the major issues on which the Prime Minister needs to be briefed and that it will therefore replace any other formal briefing meeting.



D F WILLIAMSON

30 November 1983

30 NOV 1983



Euro PD : Council in  
Athens Pt 13



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> .....	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM ..... (one piece/item number) <i>1025</i>	
Extract/Item details: <i>European Community Budget Negotiations: Contingency Plans. Memorandum by the European Secretariat, Cabinet office 25 November 1983</i>	
CLOSED FOR ..... <i>35</i> ..... YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>31/1/2013</i> <i>S. Gray</i>
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LETTERCODE/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> .....	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1025</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>European Community: The Main Questions for the European Council.</i> <i>Memorandum by the European Secretariat, Lubinell office</i> <i>25 November 1983</i>	
CLOSED FOR ..... <i>35</i> ..... YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>31/1/2013</i> <i>S. Gray</i>
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