

1. MR POWELL *CDP*
2. PRIME MINISTER

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READER'S DIGEST

The Reader's Digest did not exhaust their questions when they saw you and have asked me to try to clear answers with you. They are below:

Q. Some Europeans view you as a stumbling block to a unified Europe. What is your reaction?

A. I think you must distinguish between reality and rhetoric. It is true that a great many people in Europe talk air-fairily about European union, a united Europe and so on. But when I challenge them to say precisely what they mean it rapidly becomes clear that very few, if any, of my colleagues around the table at European Councils have any intention of returning to their Parliaments with the news that they are to be stripped of power in favour of a government in Brussels. Of course, there are some federalists but I believe that most people share my concept of a Europe *based on* ~~individual nations. - a Europe enriched by the diversity of its member states working together to mutual advantage.~~ *Willing and active cooperation between individual sovereign states* So, having set aside the rhetoric, the reality is that far from being a stumbling block, *Spain is* I am on so many issues in the lead in developing the European Community - in putting its finances on a sounder and fairer basis; in controlling agricultural production; in completing the single internal market; in eliminating exchange controls; and in developing the wider use of the European currency unit (ecu).

Q. Is Britain's special relationship with the US compatible with a full commitment to the European Community?

A. Yes. The two are in no way incompatible. We are and always have been European. We are also close allies within NATO of both European partners and the USA. And we secured a declaration at the Rhodes European Council in December last year that the European Community, in moving to a single internal market would not erect new trade barriers to the outside world. We have explicitly ruled out the idea of Fortress Europe. In all these circumstances our special relationship with the United States, which I think both our nations cherish, is therefore not merely compatible with a full commitment to the European Community but an asset both to the Community and the USA.

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BERNARD INGHAM
January 30, 1989



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Press Secretary

January 31, 1989

Mr Russell,

I am sorry it has taken a little longer than I hoped it would to provide you with the answers to your two questions of the Prime Minister on Europe. They are attached. I hope they satisfactorily complete your article within the deadline.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Ingham'.

BERNARD INGHAM

Russell Twisk Esq
Editor in Chief
Reader's Digest

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