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From the Private Secretary

MR. LAVELLE
Cabinet Office

DAILY MAIL INTERVIEW ON EUROPE

Thank you for your minute of 3 February sending me some material for the Prime Minister's interview with the Daily Mail on Europe. The interview has now had to be postponed until mid-May.

X

The material was admirably comprehensive but not entirely what the Prime Minister wanted. The focus is on the positive aspects of the Community. But the Prime Minister knows them. And anyway, Sir David English is an enthusiast for the European Community and hardly needs to be told about the plus points. What the Prime Minister is after is some good examples of where the Community does not work well or does not work to Britain's advantage, with supporting evidence, in order to demonstrate that it is often necessary to resist ill thought-out proposals or fight hard for specific British interests. I think I set out some of the areas which she wanted to tackle in my original note about the interview. It is not a question of being anti-European: indeed the material should demonstrate how we very often display more Community spirit than do others. I recall that in David Williamson's day we used to have a collection of 'stilettos' which the Prime Minister could use. It's something on those lines that we need now.

Could I please ask you to have another go at this? .

I am copying this minute to Mr. Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

C. P.
CHARLES POWELL
8 March 1989

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