

SUBJECT CUMMATTOR

MRMAFG



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*From the Private Secretary*

MR. LAVELLE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL - MADRID: SOCIAL CHARTER

When discussing the programme for the European Council in Madrid with the Foreign Secretary this afternoon, the Prime Minister reverted to her idea of a British 'Social Charter'. She accepted there would be drawbacks in tabling this at the Council itself, but thought it would be useful to have to hand to draw on in discussion and for briefing the press. She would therefore like a full statement of the social benefits available in the United Kingdom to be drawn up for this purpose. It should range widely covering various payments such as income support and family credit; pensions; provision for the elderly (on which the Prime Minister thinks we spend a higher proportion of GNP than most other EC countries); provision for the disabled; attendance allowance; provision of health care which is free at the point of use; trade union reform; and any other relevant payments, allowances or services. I should be grateful if you would co-ordinate a rapid exercise with Departments concerned to produce a comprehensive statement on what the United Kingdom provides for its citizens, in a readily comprehensible form.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Secretary of State for Employment, the Secretary of State for Social Security and the Secretary of State for Health.

C. D. POWELL

14 JUNE 1989