



from The Hon. FRANCIS MAUDE, MP

Member of Parliament for
North Warwickshire

House of Commons
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Friday,

CONFIDENTIAL

Professor Brian Griffiths,
Policy Unit,
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CO

Dear Brian,

It was good to see you last night, and to have the chance of a chat with you.

You will remember that we talked about the attitude of other politicians in the Community to the Prime Minister's approach to Europe. It seemed to me at the outset that the initial hysterical response to the Bruges speech was almost wholly a Brussels/Strasbourg phenomenon. There is a tendency for Community insiders to spend much of their time reinforcing each others' prejudices, which frequently bear no relationship to the views of politicians in the national capitals. (This tends in my experience to be as true of the permanent representations, though not I think of ours, as it is of those in the Commission and the Parliament.)

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also make,

Certainly my frequent discussions with my counterparts bear this out. I have discovered no feeling that Britain is somehow out of step with the others. To take but three examples, ministers in Germany, Portugal and Ireland have told me that they found nothing to disagree with in the Bruges speech. Indeed, I have found a fairly widespread dislike, even fear, of the Commission. And many of these countries are only too glad that we express the views that we do: I frequently feel that we are standing proxy for many others.

Increasingly, I think, some of these countries are coming out of the closet to support us more openly. Ireland, for example, over the last year, has proved a reliable and robust ally in the Internal Market Council. I have no doubt that there is a rich seam of support for our approach among domestic politicians throughout the Community. I don't think we have really begun to work that seam; perhaps we ought to be thinking about how we set about that.

Francis Maude

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PRIME MINISTER

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed, which arrived today.

Alb

JGP

BRIAN GRIFFITHS
Policy Unit

23 June 1989

Peter Nott - Bishop of Norwich

"George Forward" - Rector