

PERSONAL

cc Stephen Wall

PRIME MINISTER

MRS THATCHER'S SPEECH

Charles Powell telephoned me early this morning to say that Mrs Thatcher had arrived back yesterday. She had decided against using the draft that Charles Powell had prepared. However he persuaded her that her speech was also not appropriate. The draft she has at the moment is in Charles' view not too bad but he said that Messrs Hamilton, Cash and Tebbit were all visitors last night and were likely to return to the fray to try and toughen up the language.

Her speech starts with the paragraph saying: "I rise to support the Government Motion ...". She goes on to say these are very crucial issues and tough negotiations. "I have no doubt there may be times when I would have had to get out my handbag and my successor may need to produce the same effect with his cricket bat. Dare I say there may even by times when he has to say 'No, no, no'."

She will go on to say that the present Presidency text represents an enormous and unacceptable transfer of responsibility away from national parliaments. Charles has told her this is something of an exaggeration but he doubts whether he will get it amended. She will argue that the Single European Act was not as much an infringement of sovereignty as some people have suggested. (This section will follow the line of argumentation in Charles Powell's article in The Times).

She will explain why the Government is right to resist any moves on the social front and say that she never regretted being isolated on this issue.

On EMU she will argue that the current proposals are very dangerous. A single currency is not in this country's interests. Even if there is an opt-out clause we will be being asked to sign up to the goal of a single currency. She will point out that everyone was opposed to the idea of a single currency in 1979.

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Mrs Thatcher will argue that if ever we get to the point where we would be choosing whether or not to have a single currency and if at that time all parties felt a single currency was a good idea, then it would be essential to have a referendum to allow the people to decide whether such a loss of sovereignty is acceptable.

Mrs Thatcher intends to speak after Neil Kinnock and before Mr Ashdown and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Charles Powell had lunch yesterday with a number of Euro-sceptics and was rather re-assured by the number who said they would support the Government. He only knew of one or two who would vote against. He identified John Biffen as someone who, at the moment at least, intended to vote against the Motion.



**A T O'DONNELL**  
**20 November 1991**

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