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PRIME MINISTER

Sir Geoffrey Howe has made remarks about British membership of the ERM which will be carried on two separate television programmes this weekend. I attach transcripts. They were apparently recorded some time ago. I have underlined the offensive passages. They are bound to be taken up and exploited by the press in the present circumstances. It is not clear to me why he needs to be giving interviews on these subjects at all in his present post.

EDP

C. D. POWELL

1 December 1989

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

1st December, 1989

Dear John,

Please find attached the segments of pre-recorded interviews given by the Lord President on Europe which are to be used in two television programmes being broadcast this weekend.

The first is the third edition of "1992 and all that" at 7pm on Channel Four on Saturday. The interview was recorded on 8th November. The segments being broadcast, plus the full text of interview recorded, are attached.

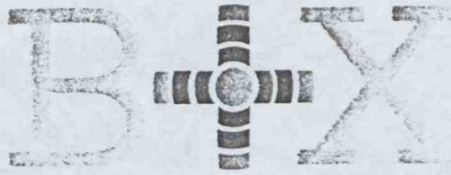
The second is a one-off documentary on Jacques Delors to be broadcast at 8.05pm on BBC2 on Sunday. The interview was recorded on 16th November. The section to be broadcast on the EMS is attached.

Yours  
Anthony

ANTHONY TEASDALE  
Special Adviser

John Whittingdale Esq





29 November 1989

Mr Anthony Teesdale  
Rm 112  
Privy Council  
68 Whitehall  
LONDON SW1

Dear Anthony

I enclose a copy of John Plender's interview with Sir Geoffrey Howe together with the two excerpts we have included in the programme. They both appear in the second half where we deal with the Social Charter and the European Monetary System.

#### REFERENCE TO THE SOCIAL CHARTER

I think it's very important to try and persuade British commentators like yourself to diminish your obsession with the risk of isolation. (EDIT) If you take the Social Charter, that debate is shifting very substantially all the time. And the discussions that I've had with Jacques Delors and others, one's been able to make a significant impression by saying "look, these nations of Europe, come from tremendously different traditions, they've tremendously different ways of doing things. (EDIT) They must have different approaches to things like the Social Charter.

#### REFERENCE TO EMS

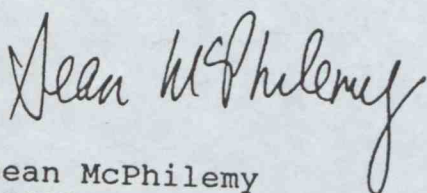
What I say is that the more closely we are participating in the exchange rate mechanism and in a sense the sooner we are fully engaged in it, the more likely we are to have a substantial influence on what's happening. I don't say that outside it we have no influence. Heavens above, we've - we've exercised a great deal of influence on a lot of the discussions in Europe over the last ten years. But in the monetary field, if the exchange rate mechanism is a part to which others are able to belong, then clearly inside rather than outside is a more influential position to be. Hence I repeat, there is no argument at all about the principle of membership. We've set out very clearly the conditions against which we shall judge when we join the - the institution to which we're committed.

(Q : Is there any likelihood at all that we might find our way into the exchange rate mechanism before the next election?)

Oh it must be a - real possibility, surely, yes. We have to make our judgement on the fulfilment of the conditions. I can't now tell you when that date will be, but I'm certainly not going to exclude any date from being in that category.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean McPhilemy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sean McPhilemy  
PRODUCER