

Political office



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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John Whittingdale Esq
Political Secretary
10 Downing Street
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Mr Powell
JHW
7/10/4

Dear John,

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

We talked briefly on the telephone last week about the Prime Minister's position as a patron of the European Movement. As I said then, and as I had previously mentioned in the Lobby to Charles Powell, Bill Cash MP has now made representations to Central Office on this subject. Given his position as Chairman of the Backbench European Affairs Committee, I think that it would be wrong for me to put up definitive advice to the Foreign Secretary until I have had a chance to speak to Mr Cash. He has been ill recently but I now hope to see him, together with Edward Llewellyn, soon after Easter.

This will mean a further delay in responding to Charles Powell's letters to Stephen Wall of 5 February, 14 March and 20 March. I am sorry about this but I think it right to deal with Mr Cash first.

Yours,

David Lidington
Special Adviser