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From: PAUL HOWELL, M.E.P.



European Parliament

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London. S.W.1.

Prime Minister.
Would you like to send the substantive
reply to this yourself or shall I ask
Sir Ian Blair to do so?

11th January 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

May I first express my own thanks to you for finding time to address and talk with Members of the European Democratic Group in Church House on Tuesday. I am sure you will know that all of us were thoroughly delighted to hear your views and to be able to express our own views to you, especially at this time of great difficulty, not only at home, but in the Community and around the world.

All of us were well aware of the irrefutable justice in the British case with regard to the Community Budget; equally we are agreed in the necessity of a fundamental reform of the C.A.P. Furthermore, we all look forward to the speedy resolution of all problems besetting the Community today.

There is concern however, that the Government has lost a sense of vision in what type of European Community it is seeking to build. Are the 1980's to be a stagnant period of community development, or is the Community to move forward once more after solutions are found to today's special difficulties?

Following the resolution of those problems, what constructive plans are the Government considering to help build the strong and viable community that today's world surely requires?

It is this European constructive vision that I fear, amongst all our problems, we have perhaps lost sight of, and I would be grateful if you would inform me of the Government's view of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Howell

Paul Howell, M.E.P.

The Government are aware that in Britain in particular there is a lack of understanding of the underlying advantages and opportunities the Community affords. I think that progress on the budget problem will make it easier for us, as no doubt for Members of the European Parliament, to put across in public the need for a strong and viable Community which, as you say, today's world certainly requires.

NO JAN 1980



FILE

BH
GWD
BWH

Mr Paul HOWELL

(EP)

15/2

17 January 1980

I enclose a letter received by the Prime Minister from Paul Howell in EP about the Government's European policy.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for a reply to be sent to Mr Howell on the Prime Minister's behalf and for a copy to be sent to us for our records.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Michael Richardson Esq
Lord Privy Seal's Office

11

16 January 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 11 January about the Government's European policy.

Your letter is receiving consideration and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M O'D B A

Paul Howell, Esq., M.E.P.

TRK