



FCS/84/9

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Net Payments to European Community Institutions: Public
Expenditure White Paper Figures

cc ~~ND~~
N. S. P. R.A. S. C. 13.
T

h.a. -

1. Thank you for your minute of 5 January.
2. I accept your argument that the White Paper should contain figures which assume that we will receive 90% of our budget refund for 1983 by the end of March. I continue to think, however, that the disputed balance of our 1982 risk-sharing refund should be treated differently. By including the figure for the sum we have actually received and referring to the disputed balance in a footnote, we would not be implying that the outstanding £42 million will not be received; we will merely be signalling that (unlike the 1983 refund) there is a dispute with our partners over the sum due and we do not know when it will be settled. Moreover, whereas our 1983 refund (or the bulk of it) should be paid by the end of March the disputed element of the risk-sharing refund is not subject to a deadline. While we ourselves may wish to take action if we have not received the sum due to us by the end of March, there is no need (as there is for the 1983 refunds) to make a formal public assumption of payment by that date. I therefore hope you will consider again my earlier suggestion for a drafting amendment to paragraph 2 of the White Paper and for a footnote to the figures in the tables.
3. I understand that your officials have now suggested a further amendment to paragraph 2 slightly altering the amendment I had proposed (paragraph 5 of my minute). I am content with their revised wording.

/4.



4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

GEOFFREY HOWE

13.1.84

13 JAN 1954

