



PM/84/140

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister. *GPC*

*MW* →

We are having to ~~belabour~~  
belabour the ~~DTI~~ & FCO to  
get progress on this.

2. Mr. Channon's proposal  
is a sensible one  
provided it is followed up  
by a more substantial  
initiative,

*A26*

Standards and Industrial Collaboration

*as promised  
in para. 4  
C.D.P.  
21/8*

1. Early in July you expressed disappointment (Mr Powell's letter of 5 July) at the results of OD(E)'s consideration of a possible UK initiative in this field. Further work is in hand which I hope will lead to substantive proposals being put to OD(E). Meanwhile, Paul Channon has suggested (his letter to me of 2 August) that we should prepare the way for our main initiative by seeking prior Community agreement to a proposal aiming at greater acceptance by each member state of others' standards in their own markets. The proposal builds in safeguards to ensure that member states' health and safety legislation is not undermined.

2. Paul Channon believes that Community agreement to his proposal is a necessary first step for us to make speedy progress on those specific standards which the DTI and British industry consider act as barriers to trade. John Gummer has warmly welcomed the proposal (his letter to Paul Channon of 17 August).

3. The Committee of Experts on Standards on which all Member States are represented and which is chaired by Mr Williams of the DTI has already begun its preparations for the 9 October Internal Market Council. During discussion of Paul Channon's proposal officials agreed that it would be desirable to make an input to the Williams Committee along the lines of the proposal in order that it might have a better chance of being adopted at the 9 October Council. David Barclay of your office agreed to this course of action, subject to my reporting the state of play to you on return.



4. I have now had an opportunity to consider the matter and I am satisfied that this is a good approach. We shall have a chance to review matters at the OD(E) meeting scheduled for 3 October, when we shall be considering a range of specific proposals which could be launched at the Internal Market Council on both standards and industrial collaboration.

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

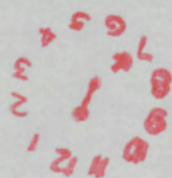
GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

31 August, 1984

Euro PD Pt 27

Budget



31 AUG 1991



ape  
✓

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 September 1984

Standards and Industrial  
Collaboration

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Geoffrey Howe's minute of 31 August on this subject. She agrees that we should proceed with the proposals in Mr. Channon's letter of 2 August to Sir Geoffrey, on the assumption that this is followed up by a more substantial initiative as soon as possible. She looks forward to the further proposals promised in paragraph 4 of Sir Geoffrey's minute.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Steve Nicklen (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

M. J. POWELL

Colin Budd Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.