



Ref. A085/318

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Community Affairs

Unless it has already been covered under Foreign Affairs you may wish to inform Cabinet of the Community aspects of your talks with the Dutch Prime Minister on 26 January.

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will report on the Foreign Affairs Council on 28-29 January which was spent mainly on the enlargement of the Community and in negotiation with the Spanish and Portuguese. The Community has decided its own position on almost all significant points but there are negotiating disagreements with Spain and - to a lesser extent - Portugal on certain agricultural and fisheries issues. The Italian Presidency had prepared the Council badly and much of the meeting was a waste of time. On the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes Monsieur Delors is clearly trying to lower Greek expectations by emphasising the wide range of existing Community funding and the need to keep Community expenditure to a minimum. In a discussion of the 1985 budget and the revised own resources decision the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary maintained the view that the best solution would be to have a limited amount of new own resources available in 1985, in order to finance the 1985 budget overrun and the United Kingdom abatement. Alternatively, it might be acceptable to hold over the operative date for any general increase in own resources until 1 January 1986 but to finance the United Kingdom abatement on ratification of the revised own resources decision and to finance the 1985 budget overrun by intergovernmental agreement. Most member states can accept either solution but the German position remains obscure. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) is to follow up



the discussion with a view to a decision at the February Council. In the meantime we are obtaining some forced savings through the absence of a 1985 budget.

3. There will be an informal meeting of Social Affairs Ministers on 8 February.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

30 January 1985

STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL : BRUSSELS 28 AND 29
JANUARY TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, IN THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY.

With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement
about the Foreign Affairs Council which met in Brussels on 28 and
29 January 1985. I represented the United Kingdom. Ministerial
conferences with Spain and Portugal were held within the margins
of the Council.

Ministers discussed outstanding points in the negotiations with
both Spain and Portugal on agriculture, fisheries and social
affairs. We remain determined to conclude the negotiations to
allow the date of 1 January 1986 for Spanish and Portuguese
accession to be met.

The Council discussed text of the the financing
of the 1985 budget and the new own resources decision. More
detailed work will now be done. The Council will return to this
subject in February.

The Council considered the new Canadian restrictions on Community
beef exports. I urged others to work for a satisfactory
negotiated outcome.

Ministers of the Ten, in political co-operation, issued a short
statement regretting the failure of the New York high level
meeting on Cyprus and calling for the resumption of negotiations.
Copies of the statement have been deposited in the library of the
House.

At an intergovernmental conference in the margins of the Council,
Foreign Ministers appointed the Vice-Presidents of the new
Commission.

TO BE CHECKED
AGAINST DELIVERY