



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 March 1985

C M J Marshall Esq  
Private Secretary to the Lord  
Privy Seal  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
SW1A 2AS

*Dear Charles*

*N  
12/3*

ORAL STATEMENTS

Please refer to your letter of 7 March to Jim Acton, Home Office about the desirability of avoiding oral statements during the period 19-22 March when the House will be debating the Budget.

The Foreign Secretary is likely to have to make an oral statement to the House following the 17-20 March EC Foreign Affairs Council. This extended Council will be dealing with issues of crucial importance to the Community and will be the last meeting of Foreign Ministers before Heads of Government meet at the 29/30 March European Council. It will, almost inevitably, give rise to a great deal of press and parliamentary interest with consequent requests from the Opposition and others for an oral statement. As you know, there is an obligation upon Ministers to report the outcome of all Council meetings to the House as soon as possible. We cannot say for sure that an oral, as opposed to a written, statement will be required. But, given the prominence of the meeting an oral statement is likely to be necessary.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's Private Secretary has therefore agreed that I should ask you to make provisional arrangements for an oral statement by the Foreign Secretary on 21 March.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher at No 10 and to Murdo Maclean in the Chief Whips Office.

*Johnson*  
*Philip*

P H Johnson  
Parliamentary Clerk



PARLIAMENT: HC Procedure: Pt 6.





**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY**  
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY  
Telephone 01-407 5522 ext 7692

Charles Marshall Esq  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AJ

11 March 1985

Dear Charles

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ORAL STATEMENTS

Your letter to Jim Acton on 7 March refers.

Subject to 'H' Committee approval this week we would expect a statement by our Secretary of State on medical and dental immigration, possibly on 18 March.

There could also be a statement on Supplementary Benefit board and lodging payments, although at this particular point in time it seems unlikely to be finalised before the Budget.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher at No. 10 and to Murdo Maclean.

Yours sincerely  
Louise

LOUISE MADERSON  
Parliamentary Clerk



PARLIAMENT: HC Procedure: Pt 6

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

7 March 1985

Dear Jim

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7/3

ORAL STATEMENTS

The date of the Budget is Tuesday 19 March and the remainder of that week will be taken up with debates on the Budget. This does not preclude oral statements being made in the House on those days but it would be desirable to avoid them as far as possible.

It would, therefore, be very helpful if you and copy addressees could consider whether your Departmental Ministers will have to make any oral statements before Monday 25 March of which I have not been advised. I will then be in a position to consider whether there is any scope for bringing forward the dates of those statements.

I am copying this letter to the Parliamentary Clerks of all Departments, to Tim Flesher at No 10 and to Murdo Maclean.

yours  
Charles

C M J MARSHALL  
Private Secretary

Jim Acton Esq  
Parliamentary Clerk  
Home Office