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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

13 March 1985

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
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BBPM

2002 1413

*D. Geoffrey*

CO-OPERATION WITH THE DUTCH ON THE INTERNAL MARKET

Your minute of <sup>attached</sup> 27 February sought my views on the possibility of joint Anglo-Dutch efforts to achieve progress on the Community internal market during our respective Presidencies in 1986. I note that you have already discussed the possibility with the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2 I agree that we should be talking seriously to the Dutch about an internal market programme for our respective Presidencies in 1986. The Dutch should be our natural allies on a whole range of issues. Indeed I suspect that in the field of services - and financial services in particular - they may be our only effective allies. But we must avoid two potential dangers. The first is that of expecting too much from such co-operation. The second is that we should not pursue co-operation with the Dutch to the point where it prejudices efforts to form a common position with other, perhaps less tractable, Member States. These are points that officials should be invited to consider in addition to those proposed in your minute.

3 I also agree with your suggestion for a group of officials, chaired by the Cabinet Office, to prepare the detailed groundwork and that our respective officials should be in touch to draw up a programme of priority objectives.

4 I am sending copies of this minute to other members of OD(E), Sir Robert Armstrong and David Williamson.

*[Signature]*  
NORMAN TEBBIT

JH5ASG



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