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CCP

Qz.04394

*B.C.*

TF

*Can we get the working in para. 3 into the briefing for PM's questions on Tuesday.*

MR POWELL

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: VISIT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO LONDON

*CP*

A delegation of six members of the European Parliament is in London this week in order to advocate the draft treaty on European Union (the so-called Spinelli draft) adopted by the European Parliament in February 1984. The delegation is having meetings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and with representatives of the political parties, the CBI, the TUC and other organisations. The meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will take place tomorrow afternoon and the delegation is giving a press conference at 11.45 am tomorrow morning.

2. This visit may give rise to further press and parliamentary comment about a new treaty and may include speculation (on the lines of the attached press release by the European Parliament's Information Office in London) that Britain is "in the slow lane". I note that Mr Steel and Dr Owen have already put down an early day Motion (attached) about an inter-governmental conference.

3. I would propose that if there is further comment today or tomorrow about "Britain in the slow lane" and you did wish to comment, it might be on the following lines:-

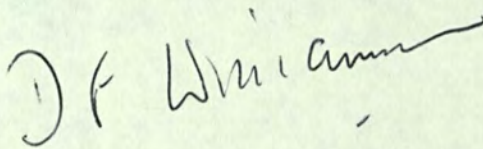
"This is a misunderstanding of the United Kingdom's role in the Community following the Fontainebleau settlement. It has been already agreed at the March European Council that the report of the Dooge Committee on the future of the Community must now be the subject of discussions between

/the



the governments of member states. This consultation is now under way. On a number of major issues - in particular, political cooperation and the completion of the common market - the United Kingdom will continue to set the pace in the Community."

I am sending copies to Colin Budd (FCO) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D F Williamson', with a long, sweeping underline.

D F WILLIAMSON

23 April 1985