

(2)



CCW
PC

Prime Minister

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

You should see this, as it conflicts with your own view that we should try to get Committee stage

1 think this is moving it very close not

PARLIAMENTARY HANDLING OF THE OWN RESOURCES DECISION AND THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

and second Reading out of the way in July

CDP
13/5

1. Thank you for your minute of 9 May. I have also seen the Attorney General's minute of 8 May and learned of the Prime Minister's views. I very much agree that a discussion in OD(E) will be a useful next step; the Chief Whip and I will attend.

2. I also agree that timing is the essential question we have to determine and it is consideration of this issue which has delayed my reply to the Economic Secretary's letter of 30 April. However, I also believe that timing considerations may affect the form of the legislation; we should not therefore adopt an unduly rigid posture on the form at this stage.

3. For the record, I agree with you and Ian Stewart that a single Bill dealing with both aspects is preferable, provided that this does not of itself present us with further difficulties. (I should say at this stage that some of the difficulties I have in mind could best be avoided by ensuring that the Scrutiny and Treasury Select Committees were kept fully in the picture and given the opportunity to make an appropriate contribution to the debate). I will assume for the purposes of the remainder of the argument that there will be a single Bill.

4. On the timing of legislation, there are three main options:

a. introduction as soon as possible - which I understand could not be before the week beginning 17 June - rapid progress through House of Commons - House of Lords Stages to begin in July. Royal Assent in October;

b. introduction and all Stages in both Houses in the spillover;

c. introduction at the beginning of the new Session; rapid progress in both Houses. Royal Assent perhaps by 19 December.

5. I would rule out option b. entirely; there is simply not enough time in the spillover to rely on our getting a Bill through both Houses. Option a. could give real difficulties in the House of Commons. The run-up to the Summer Adjournment is not the time to be dealing with such highly charged matters and I would wish to avoid it if at all possible. The Opposition would seize on the timing problems involved and there could well therefore be implications for the dates of the Summer Adjournment. Option c. would be tight for mid-December Royal Assent without some co-operation; there must be a risk that Royal Assent would be in the New Year.

6. My own preferences would be for the Bill to be drafted and made ready for introduction as soon as possible. If events in Europe and the general consensus compelled early introduction, it could begin its journey in mid-June. If, however, there were any delay beyond mid-June in its start, I prefer that it should not be until the new Session.

7. That leaves the timing of any possible Estimate. On balance I think that the situation is so fluid that we could well do without the additional complication of an Estimate Stage. I am strengthened in my view by the cogent arguments put forward by the Attorney for dealing with the IGA by the s. 1(2) route. If we go down this road we shall have maximum flexibility in timing and, provided we ensure that the Select Committees have time to do their work, no more difficulty than the other form of primary legislation.

8. In summary, therefore, I suggest:

a. A Bill covering the IGA and the ORD.

b. The form of the Bill being to add both documents to the list of Community treaties in s. 1(2) of the European Community Act.

c. If at all possible, to avoid debates in the House of Commons in July.

9. Finally, could I say that the debates on the Bill, in whatever form will be very difficult and it would be most helpful if you could take part in them yourself.

10. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Minister of Agriculture, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Whip, the Lord Advocate, the Economic Secretary, Lord Denham, Sir George Engle and Sir Robert Armstrong.

WJB

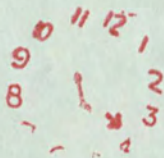
W J B

13 May 1985

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Budget

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May 1985

PARLIAMENTARY HANDLING OF THE OWN RESOURCES DECISION
AND THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

The Prime Minister has, of course, already set out her views on this matter. She has however seen the Lord Privy Seal's minute of 13 May to the Foreign Secretary and has commented: "I think this is running it very close."

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord President, the Minister of Agriculture, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Whip, the Lord Advocate, the Economic Secretary, Lord Denham, Sir George Engle and Sir Robert Armstrong.

(CHARLES POWELL)

C R Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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(2)



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

You might glance
at OD(E)'s minutes.

They record agreement
on a UK position on
EUREKA.

Also agreement to
introduce legislation on
the Revised Own Resources
Decision and the IGA
in June, ^{completing} ~~completely~~ as
many stages as possible by the
time the House rises. CDP 15/5