

PRIME MINISTER

CHANNEL FIXED LINK

The Secretary of State for Transport wants to have a word tomorrow about his note (enclosed) on the assessment of the various proposals for a Fixed Channel Link. No decisions are required: he just wants to keep you abreast of what he's up to. He is particularly concerned about the Kent MPs among whom opposition to the project as a whole seems to be developing fast.

One particular point you might discuss is how to handle this at the Anglo-French Summit. What sort of statement does he envisage you and President Mitterrand agreeing?

Mr Ridley is planning to meet his French opposite number before the Summit to try to secure a commitment that our lorry traffic through the Fixed Link will not be hampered by any quantitative restrictions. They have recently considerably increased our bilateral quota: but we need more than this - a bankable assurance that our traffic will never be impeded by quantitative restrictions.

e.d.p.

Charles Powell
6 November 1985