



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 January 1990

From The Minister of State

The Hon Francis Maude MP

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Lord President of the Council  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

*Dea Geoffrey*

SLD MOTION ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND EASTERN EUROPE:  
WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY

/ I attach a copy of this Motion, which as you will see is expressed in unexceptionable terms. Ordinarily, of course, we would propose our own amendment. I have discussed it with the Chief Whip, and his view is that there are considerable tactical advantages in accepting the Motion as it stands. I understand the Prime Minister is content that we should not table our own amendment. I gather the Labour Party are also unlikely to table an amendment.

The line I would take in the Debate is that the second part of the Motion calls upon the Government to do something which it has already done, and has already put into operation. The Motion is therefore largely irrelevant, but one which the Government would certainly not oppose. Should there be a Division called by anti-marketeers either in the Labour Party or on our own backbenches, the SLD would put in tellers to support their own Motion, and we would encourage our Party to support the main Motion.

I would be grateful to know if you are content with this approach.

... I am copying this to the Prime Minister and the Chief Whip.

*Francis Maude*

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Francis Maude



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

MOTION FOR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT OPPOSITION DAY DEBATE ON THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Mr Paddy Ashdown  
Sir Russell Johnston  
Sir David Steel  
Mr Richard Livsey  
Mr Menzies Campbell  
Mr James Wallace

That this House welcomes recent progress towards liberal democracy in the countries of eastern and central Europe; endorses progress towards the political and economic integration of the European Community, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government urgently to recognise that this country's future depends on Britain playing a full and wholehearted role in the development of the new democratic Europe.

*Menzies Campbell*



