



N.B.P.N.

AN 15/7

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

EC BUDGET: SPECIAL COUNCILS

Thank you for sending to me a copy of your minute to the Prime Minister of 12 July about the procedural decisions taken at the Special Council on 8 July on follow-up to Stuttgart.

2. I agree that the arrangements seem satisfactory. It is obviously right that Finance Ministers should be involved in the negotiation, given the financial nature of the central issues, but equally sensible that there should be some flexibility on attendance and representation.

3. As you know, I cannot attend the meeting on 19 July, but I have asked Nicholas Ridley to join you then. He will stay for the Budget Council on 20 and 21 July.

4. I doubt if we need decide now how best to arrange representation at subsequent meetings: indeed it may be sensible to see first how the negotiation develops. Nicholas Ridley will however substitute for me on 20-21 September, when I shall be at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting. Subject to Party Conference commitments on 10-13 October, I shall be ready to attend the October and November Councils.

5. I agree with you that it would be appropriate to nominate Michael Butler as our representative on the official level "preparatory group", with the support of experts from other departments as appropriate.

6. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'N.L.'.

(N.L.)

15 July 1983

15 JUL 1983

