



PM/83/55

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

NP

The Foreign Secretary suggests that you devote part of the Lord Mayor's Banquet speech to a major statement on the European Community. ①

It is early days to decide this but the timing - three weeks before Athens - is good.

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Agree in principle, subject to a firm decision much nearer the time?

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EC Presentation

A.S.C. 22/7

1. The presentation of our case in the European Community will be of major importance this autumn as the 'big negotiation' gets under way. We have to persuade our partners, not only that our cause on the budget is just, but that we have a clear vision of the way in which we would like to see the European Community develop. If we succeed in the latter, we shall greatly strengthen the prospects for the former.

2. At the recent conference of our Ambassadors from the European Community, there was discussion of the way in which we might put over our case this autumn. Briefly summarised, we propose a mixture of Ministerial speeches on suitable occasions; ~~press articles signed by myself~~, Malcolm Rifkind and other Ministers are appropriate; publication of a paper setting out the case for a safety net (we shall have this translated into the main Community languages); and possibly a piece on our ideas for the Common Agricultural Policy. In addition we shall encourage Ambassadors to appear on television in their posts to put over our case.

3. But our Ambassadors were unanimous in saying that nothing would make a greater impact with their governments this autumn than a major statement by you on our aims for the development

/of

They mean more resources for the E.C. which I am totally against.

mt



of the Community in the context of the major negotiation on which we are now embarked for the Athens European Council. They consider that such factors as the good relations you have established with Chancellor Kohl, the relative decline in the influence of the French as a result of their economic difficulties and, above all, the outcome of the elections here, give you a unique opportunity to speak with authority and with a good chance of your being heard at a juncture when it is vital that British views should command attention.

4. Your meetings this autumn with President Mitterrand in London in October/November, with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn in November and perhaps also with the next Italian Prime Minister and with Mr Lubbers, will provide opportunities for you to get extensive press and television coverage to put over our case. But I would like to see this supplemented by a major statement on the European Community to be included in your speech to the Lord Mayor's banquet on 14 November. This speech is, of course, televised and receives wide coverage both here and in the rest of the Community. It would be a particularly suitable occasion to set out our objectives for the Community, coming as it will only three weeks before the European Council in Athens.

5. Perhaps you would let me know your views. I am copying this letter to Nigel Lawson, Michael Jopling and Cecil Parkinson.

More in context - things to take into account

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 July 1983

EC PRESENTATION

The Prime Minister has seen the minute of 22 July by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary suggesting that she includes in her speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 14 November a major statement on the European Community.

Mrs. Thatcher has said that she is not persuaded of the merits of devoting a major part of her speech to this subject. I do not think that this necessarily excludes some reference to our policy on the European Community but the Prime Minister will wish to take a view on this much nearer the time.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), Robert Lawson (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Jonathan Spencer (Department of Trade and Industry).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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