

PRIME MINISTER

ATHENS: EC BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations which are now under way and which will last at least until the European Council in Athens are, as you are well aware, about as complex as any we have been involved in either in the Community or outside. They are also becoming very technical as proposals and counter proposals are put on the table.

I think it is important that you are kept appropriately abreast of the negotiations. But I should like to spare you a lot of reading.

I think that you have found the device of "teach ins" useful in the past. May I provisionally plan for a teach in before the Anglo/French Summit on 20/21 October, before the Anglo/German Summit on 8/9 November and then between CHOGM and Athens?

The purpose of these teach ins would simply be to brief you on the state of the negotiations and the various proposals that are around so that you have a good basis for discussion with President Mitterrand, Chancellor Kohl and, eventually, all your European colleagues. I suggest that they are conducted by Michael Butler, David Hannay and David Williamson (possibly with the addition of someone from the Treasury if this proves necessary).

May I proceed on the above basis?

6 October 1983

A.S.C.

Yes - Thank you  
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