

What have you said about EMR?

We have agreed that Stage One of the Delors Committee report will begin on 1 July 1990. The report of the Committee envisages all member states becoming full members of the EMS during Stage One. For obvious money market reasons there can be no question of setting an exact date now. We must get our inflation down, and we would look for clear evidence that satisfactory progress has been made on the single market, including in particular the abolition of foreign exchange controls. My statement was received positively.

Does that mean not before 1993?

No. It means that we shall take a decision based on our practical judgement. And I have described to you the circumstances in which conditions would clearly exist for sterling to join the ERM.

Has the UK accepted the inevitability of Stages 2 and 3?

They are stages. The first step will start next year and decisions on the subsequent stages will be taken only once the first stage has begun and the preparatory work is sufficiently advanced. No one is able to define precisely here and now what the subsequent steps will be. That is the whole point of further work in ECOFIN and other bodies.

Do you agree that a IGC is inevitable?

We have agreed to move stage by stage and not to preempt decisions which have not yet been taken.