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FROM: M A Arthur

DATE: 11 April 1991

cc: Mr Jay

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Private Secretary

BRUGES GROUP : ROME I AND ROME II

1. I have been through the Hansards of the Prime Minister's statements to Parliament after last Autumn's European Council. The most suitable quotations for the purposes you mentioned are as attached. I fear that they are not much help. After her introductory statement, Mrs Thatcher was anything but emollient, indeed as questioning continued, she became more and more strident.

2. Similarly, there is nothing of much use in her statement after Dublin I or Dublin II last summer. I have not kept the press conference transcripts. I do not recall an emollient line!

M A Arthur

European Community Department
(Internal)

MR MAJOR (House, 18 December, post Rome II)

"The Council was marked by a positive and cooperative spirit and by a willingness on the part of all member states to work for solutions which will enable us to go forward as Twelve. There is no doubt that there will be difficult discussions ahead in both IGCs: it would be foolish to deny that, for it is self-evidently true. But the Government's aim will be to work for agreements which are acceptable to this House and match both Britain's interests and those of Europe as a whole. We made a good start to that in Rome."

X | "On our present and future position [on EMU IGC] we will resolutely support what we perceive to be the British interest in the Community, but we shall do that in the context of trying to build collectively with our partners a better Europe for all of us."

BILL CASH (18 December)

"Acknowledging the important contribution that my RHF [Mr Major] made to the atmosphere of the Rome Summit which contributed to the fact that we ask questions now, rather than making decisions on the Presidency's Conclusions, does he agree that it is wrong to go ahead with the proposal for a Central Bank ...?"

IVAN LAWRENCE (18 December)

"Will my RHF [tell Delors that] he had better control his irritation at the fact that my RHF is making friends and influencing people?"

MR MAJOR

"I am grateful ... our principal concern in all the negotiations is to ensure that at their conclusion there is a sensible agreement that is satisfactory and right for this country."

MRS THATCHER, 30 October (Reporting on Rome I)

Y | "Britain intends to be part of the further political, economic and monetary development of the European Community. That is what the great majority of member states want too. When we come to negotiate on particular points, rather than concepts and generalities, I believe that solutions will be found which will enable the Community to go forward as Twelve. That will be our objective."