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20 JUL 1984

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TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 351 OF 18 JULY

INFO OTHER EC POSTS

YOUR TELNO 2390: 1984 AND 1985 BUDGETS

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO M THORN.
BEGINS

QUOTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 12 JULY.

I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE SCALE OF THE BUDGET PROBLEM FACING THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS WHY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS PUT FORWARD DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR SAVINGS. OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE DONE THE SAME. THE BUDGET COUNCIL WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THESE PROPOSALS THE FULL CONSIDERATION WHICH IS NECESSARY.

IF THE BUDGET COUNCIL CONCLUDES THAT, WHEN THE FULL SCOPE FOR SAVINGS HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED, THERE IS STILL A POTENTIAL PROBLEM, THEN WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER TOGETHER HOW THE REMAINING PROBLEM SHOULD BE TACKLED WHILE RESPECTING ARTICLE 199 OF THE TREATY AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S OWN RESOURCES

I HAVE DRAWN YOUR LETTER TO THE ATTENTION OF IAN STEWART, THE ECONOMIC SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY, WHO WILL BE THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE AT THE BUDGET COUNCIL. UNQUOTE. ENDS

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1984

Message from Gaston Thorn

Thank you for your letter of 17 July enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to M. Thorn's letter of 12 July about the 1984/85 Budget over-run.

The Prime Minister has approved the message and I should be grateful if you could arrange for its early despatch.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Economic Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

C D Powell

Colin Budd Esq Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SWIA 2AH

17 July 1984

Dear Charles,

Message from Gaston Thorn
Thank you for your letter of 13 July.

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to M. Thorn's letter of 12 July about the Commission's proposals for dealing with the 1984/85 budget overrun.

The reply does not go into the detail of our position since this will be made clear at the Budget Council on Wednesday. Both the Foreign Secretary and the Economic Secretary have approved the proposed reply. Sir Geoffrey Howe thinks that a reply should be sent to M. Thorn.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Economic Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

> Yours ever, Offin Budd

(C R Budd) Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq 10 Downing Street

Classification and Caveats Precedence / Deskby CONFIDENTIAL IMMEDIATE ZCZC 1 ZCZC GRS GRS 3 CLASS CONFIDENTIAL CAVEATS 4 DESKBY FM FCO 161300Z JUL 84 FM FCO 6 PRE/ADD 7 TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER 9 AND REPEATED TO FOR INFORMATION OTHER EC POSTS YOUR TELNO 2390: 1984 AND 1985 BUDGETS 10 Please deliver the following reply from the Prime 11 Minister to M Thorn. 12 13 Begins 14 Quote Thank you for your letter of 12 July-15 I am very conscious of the scale of the budget problem 16 facing the Community. This is why the British Government has 17 put forward detailed proposals for savings. Wher member 18 states have done the same. The Budget Council will be an 19 opportunity to give these proposals the full sammsideration 20 which is necessary. 21 If the Budget Council concludes that, when the full 111 22

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If the Budget Council concludes that, when the full scope for savings has been exhausted, there is still a potential problem, then we are willing to consider together how the remaining problem should be tackled while respecting Article 199 of the Treaty and within the Community's Own Resources

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I have drawn your letter to the attention of Ian Stewart, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, who will be the British representative at the Budget Council.

Unquote. Ends

7 HOWE

8 NNNN

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 July 1984

Message from Gaston Thorn

Roger Bone sent over a copy of the message which President Thorn had sent the Prime Minister about the Community budget. The answer will of course be explicit in the position we adopt at the Budget Council next week. There seems to me therefore little point in a substantive reply unless it is sent quickly and before the Budget Council.



I should be grateful for advice on this and a draft reply in the form you judge most suitable.

C.D. POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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