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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 74/80

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BONN FROM LONDON
SECRET GOVERNMENTAL 0004
BT

Subject on final P01 P77
Community Budget

TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
FROM PRIME MINISTER MRS THATCHER
BEGINS:

DEAR HELMUT,

DURING OUR DISCUSSION AT CHEQUERS ON 28 MARCH YOU PUT THE SUGGESTION THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE COMMUNITY MIGHT APPOINT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSIDER, BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, THE BASIS ON WHICH A SETTLEMENT OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE BUDGET, MIGHT BE REACHED. I SAID I WOULD THINK THIS IDEA OVER.

HAVING DONE SO, I SEE MERIT IN IT. I THINK HOWEVER THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO CONFINE SUCH A MEETING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRG, THE UK, FRANCE AND ITALY, RATHER THAN INVOLVING THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY AS WELL. MY OWN REPRESENTATIVE AT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE SIR DONALD MAITLAND, THE DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, WHO WAS UNTIL RECENTLY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BRUSSELS. HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND A MEETING AT ANY TIME AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

IF YOU AGREE, PERHAPS YOU COULD CONVENE SUCH A MEETING YOURSELF OR INSTIGATE THE ITALIANS INTO DOING SO. IF THE MEETING YIELDS RESULTS, THESE MIGHT AT SOME APPROPRIATE STAGE BE FED INTO THE PARALLEL MEETINGS OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS WHICH THE ITALIANS HAVE ALREADY INSTITUTED TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNIQUE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR MAKING THIS HELPFUL SUGGESTION. I MUCH ENJOYED OUR DISCUSSIONS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS.

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