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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 July 1981

Are you concerned with these
arrangements & in particular,
 with the nominations of Mr
 Franklin as the UK representative (he will be in his
 present post at least until the end of the year)? Yes not
 Dear Michael, Phd 15/7

EC Budget Restructuring: Setting up
the 30 May Mandate Group

The Luxembourg European Council on 29-30 June decided to set up a special 30 May Mandate Group to assist the Foreign Affairs Council. It is to consist of one representative of each Member Government who shall be at least of Ambassadorial rank. It was tacitly agreed that it would not meet until September.

As Presidency we now need to set a timetable of meetings; to seek others' nominations to the Group; and to make our own nominations.

On timing, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary proposes a first meeting on 8 September, to prepare the discussion at the 14-15 September Foreign Affairs Council; one full day a week meetings thereafter (except in Foreign Affairs Council weeks). We have stopped the timetable just short of the November Foreign Affairs Council to leave our hands free to make additional procedural proposals for the final run-up to the November European Council.

On numbers, we suggest each representative be assisted by one adviser. But the formulation would allow the adviser to be varied, if, for example, the subject matter being discussed made the presence of an agricultural or Treasury adviser desirable. One note-taker per delegation is also envisaged.

On representation the French have now nominated M. Chandernagor, the Minister with responsibility for European Affairs in the Quai d'Orsay. All the other Member States had already informally indicated an intention to nominate their Permanent Representatives. It remains to be seen whether they will reconsider in the light of the French decision.

/As



As to our own representation, we need to provide a Chairman and a national representative. At Luxembourg the Prime Minister indicated she would like Sir M Butler to chair the group. The wide spread of subjects to be covered points towards nominating Mr Franklin as the UK representative. The Chandernagor appointment does not seem to change this (M. Chandernagor's Directeur du Cabinet told us that it was well understood that we were likely to appoint Sir M Butler, an official, to chair the Group).

If the Prime Minister agrees with these proposed arrangements, we shall proceed to inform our partners of our intentions and ask for their nominations.

I am copying this letter to Kate Timms (MAFF) and John Wiggins (Treasury).

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F N Richards', written over the typed name and title.

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St