

MR. ALEXANDER

cc. Mr. Whitmore
Mr. Franklin

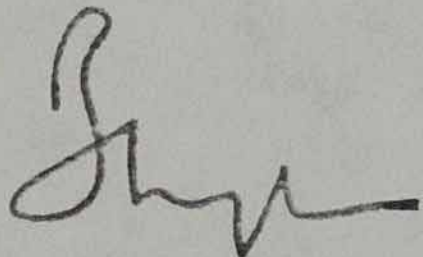
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EEC Budget

1. A curious feature of Friday's Lobby for Sunday newspapers was its concentration (at their direction) on the Eurobudget. No coverage resulted. I conclude, therefore, that they were staking out the territory. In essence, what they are now looking for are concrete examples of our determination to follow Dublin through. We may be able to hold the position up to the New Year; but we shall need some very clear evidence of action immediately thereafter if we are to meet suspicions that we are going soft.

2. In short, we cannot rely on my ebullient briefing (which necessarily has to be less ebullient because we approach the second Summit in a spirit of compromise). We need visible action or activity. This poses a dilemma because official action is, in general, behind the scenes.

3. Could you please bear these points in mind for the future? There is no substitute for Ministerial activity, though softness in pursuit of our national interests is not to be recommended as a feature of that Ministerial activity.



B. INGHAM

12 December, 1979