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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000

6 August 1980

*Prime Minister*

M Alexander Esq  
Private Secretary  
No.10 Downing Street

*You asked for an explanation of these staff increases.*

*Dear Michael,*

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: PRELIMINARY DRAFT  
BUDGET FOR 1981

*MPD 6/8*

Following your letter of 21 July to Paul Lever, FCO, I attach a note on the Prime Minister's request for information on the Commission's staff requests in the 1981 PDB.

*Yours*

*Richard.*

R I TOLKIEN

*mf*

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1981

COMMISSION STAFF REQUESTS

1. The Commission have requested an additional 324 posts for 1981.
2. 173 of these result from Greek accession, and of these posts 40 result from the necessity to add an extra language to the translation services, the other language sections being of this size. The remaining posts requested take account of increased work in the Commission because of Greek accession (eg a 17% increase in documents) and also extra work for other language sections which will have to handle translation and interpretation from Greek.
3. The other 151 posts amount to only 1.7% of the existing staff complement of the Commission. Some of these are requested for expansion of present work, including 40 for implementation of the new GATT code and for anti-dumping work; these are areas of concern to the UK.
4. The Commission's request will be vigorously scrutinised by all Member States in the Budget Committee and COREPER, and it is highly unlikely that the subsequent Budget Council will give the Commission as many as the extra 151 posts that they seek.