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THE PRIME MINISTER

I am delighted that Michael Butler has been awarded the Adolphe Bentinck prize.

He was in at the beginning of our negotiations to join the European Community. He worked long and hard for the agreement on the European Community budget we secured in 1984. His knowledge of the ins and outs of the Community was unrivalled. He was always stringent in analysis, tenacious in negotiation, and forthright in his advice: a loyal public servant and a man who carried conviction because he brought conviction.

The Community touches almost every aspect of our national life. That is why each of us negotiates with passion, determined to make the Community as relevant to the 1980s and 90s as it was to the 50s and 60s.

Michael Butler was always conscious that the Community has made a vital contribution to Europe's peace and prosperity, and determined that it should continue to do so. His book is particularly valuable in opening up the opaque workings of the Community to the light of day. If Europe today is more than a Continent, that is in no small way thanks to Michael Butler's work.

*Margaret Thatcher*

February 1988

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