



MAFF
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

C Powell Esq
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Dear Mr Powell

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES

Thank you for letting us see the latest draft of this speech. We have looked in particular at the passages on CAP reform and GATT/agriculture, and see no difficulty over the way these have been recast.

We should, however, like to suggest just a few points that you might like to reconsider.

1. Page 37, sentence beginning "Yes, we must protect....". The connection with the preceding paragraph seems a little strained. Would it be better to start "Of course, we must protect...."?

2. Pages 38-39. The suggestion here is, rightly, that economic forces and new technology could be channelled to improve the prospects of rural areas at much lower cost to consumers and taxpayers than supporting agricultural production. But the Community is also now embarking on a strategy for assisting the development of (largely) rural areas through the new deal on the structural funds. This will involve considerable expenditure of Community funds over the next five years. In view of this we wonder whether the paragraphs beginning "This will be far less.." would be better omitted?

3. Page 55, last line. For "reply" read "rely".

Yours sincerely
T. Mills

MISS TERESA MILLS
Assistant Private Secretary

