



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
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MO 13/4V

16 September 1988

EM 16/9.

Dear Charles,

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN BRUGES

Thank you for your letter of 14th September and revised version of the Prime Minister's speech.

We suggest three small changes:-

a. Page 58. The last 2 lines could be taken to go further than we would wish in accepting the US case for reducing their defence budget. The same point could be made as follows:-

✓ " their natural desire that their allies should play a full part in the common defence of freedom particularly as " etc.

b. Page 60. The reference to aircraft in line 3 could be misconstrued as we are endeavouring to keep them out of our proposals for the Conventional stability negotiations, while the East is pressing for them to be highlighted. Either "aircraft" could be dropped, or the whole phrase in parenthesis deleted without affecting the flow of the text;

✓ c. Page 62. The paragraph beginning "The time has come ..." tends to convey that nothing has been done by Europe (including UK) in these areas. This could be taken down and used against us eg in the burdensharing debate. For this reason, and at slight expense in terms of rhetoric, we would prefer to drop the "which phrases" clause.

I am copying this letter to Bob Pierce (FCO).

Your sincerely
B R Hawtin
(B R HAWTIN)
Private Secretary

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