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PRIME MINISTER

1. On Thursday next, February 16th, there will be a discussion, before the Cabinet formally meets, on the European Elections. Officials will not, of course, be present.
2. Michael Alison will be attending as usual.
3. I would like to be present myself in order to keep a record so that I can relay to other special advisers or Party officials who are involved those parts of the discussion which carry operational implications. To be quite honest, there has so far been severe problems of communication which have held back preparations for the election unnecessarily.

Would you like me to be present?

Yes

4. There is a case for the Chairman circulating a short paper to colleagues in advance of the meeting to help concentrate everybody's minds. However;
 - (a) I have not talked to the Chairman about this.
 - (b) Any circulation of a paper would run the risk, however slight, of being leaked.
 - (c) It would therefore have to be distributed with the utmost care.

Would you like the Chairman to produce a paper?

No

Do you want to discuss this with the Chairman at your normal Monday meeting?

Yes no

Stephen

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

10th February, 1984