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PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alison
Mr. Redwood

The attached letter gives a summary
of public attitudes towards the
European Community (I have a copy of
the full report if anybody wants to
see it).

Stephen

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2.5.84

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KB/djm

26th April 1984

New Style,

Public Attitudes to the Community and Community Institutions

We have just received the full Harris (ORC) report on the second of the major Information Campaign surveys on public attitudes towards the Community and Community institutions. The survey was conducted from 16th to 20th March and a copy of the full Harris (ORC) report is enclosed. The key findings are:-

- there are no indications that Conservatives (as in the first survey) are any more, or less likely to vote in Direct Elections than are supporters of other parties.
- many electors regard Direct Elections as an opportunity to show a vote of confidence or no confidence in our domestic government. The survey found roughly equal numbers wanting to show a vote of support as wanting to show a protest vote.
- the Conservative Party is seen as having the tough approach which Britain needs in Europe and as being experienced in dealing with other European political parties.
- electors see improved trade links and exports together with greater political stability as the good things to have come out of our membership of the Community. The bad things identified were rising prices, food mountains and Britain's contributions to the budget.
- the survey found some optimism for the future. People think that the Community could be made to work if the politicians tried hard enough, although there is some scepticism about getting agreement on the problem areas.
- although many electors think that in the long run the Community should become a United States of Europe more think that preserving our national way of life is much more important.

Y Britto
D.K. Britto

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