

Prime Minister
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MUS 17/11

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PRIME MINISTER

CHANNEL LINK

I have seen David Howell's minute of 9 November and welcome his proposal to bring forward quickly a paper for collective discussion of the main issues raised by a channel link. The prospect of rapid progress in discussion with the French means we can delay no longer in taking stock of the economic costs and benefits of this major investment project. This is all the more urgent because of the difficulties which are becoming apparent in securing acceptable arrangements for private finance. I hope therefore it will prove possible to discuss the paper before high level contacts with the French progress much further.

2. I am copying this minute to the Foreign Secretary and to the Secretaries of State for Trade and the Environment.

L. B.

LEON BRITTAN
16 November 1981



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Trans 9/11

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 November 1981

CHANNEL LINK

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Chief Secretary's minute of 16 November, the contents of which she has carefully noted.

I am sending copies of this letter to Roderic Lyne (FCO), John Rhodes (Department of Trade) and David Edmonds (Department of the Environment).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Terry Mathews, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

JS