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Prime Minister's Talks with Mr Reynolds, 25 September

Points to Make

Birmingham Summit

- Clearly many EC citizens are anxious about the way the Community is developing. Must address these anxieties.
- UK still committed to the Maastricht Treaty. But in the present climate we face real difficulties steering our ratification bill through Parliament. As I told the House yesterday, must await clarification of Danish way forward and progress on dealing with public concerns.

Future Financing

- Narrowness of French vote means we must take care in imposing new burdens on the Community's citizens. Future financing is a case in point.
- We are all committed to working for future financing agreement at Edinburgh and stand by our Maastricht commitments, including cohesion. Many Member States feel the Commission's proposals go way beyond what was agreed at Maastricht. Unless Ireland and others reduce their expectations, difficult to see how we can make real progress.
- Discussions so far have staked out national positions. Hope we can move to negotiation phase after Special European Council.

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