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Our hope is that at the Ministerial Council it will be possible to agree on:

- (i) a Communiqué to be issued at the conclusion of the meeting;
- (ii) a Statement to be issued by the Official Council at a meeting in Geneva immediately after the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on July 31.

2. Our view is that the Communiqué must be very cautious. It could say that the Ministers met to hear an account of the United Kingdom's consultations with the Commonwealth countries; to exchange views in the light of these and other developments; and to continue the examination begun in London of the question whether the EFTA objective of a single European market could be achieved by way of negotiations for membership of or association with E.E.C. It might close by saying that discussions were full and valuable and that they would of course be continued in subsequent meetings of the Council at both Ministerial and Official level.

3. The Statement might include:

- (a) a welcome for Prime Minister's Statement;
- (b) a recognition that it took account of the interests of all EFTA countries and of the views expressed by their Representatives at the Meetings of the Council;
- (c) as clear an indication as possible of the intentions of other EFTA Governments;
- (d) a reaffirmation of the determination of members of EFTA (as expressed in the London Communiqué) to co-ordinate their actions and remain united throughout any negotiations.

4. We attach particular importance to (c) in the preceding paragraph. Unless some clear indications can be given, the impression must inevitably gain currency, despite (d), that EFTA countries have not in fact been able to co-ordinate their actions. We hope, therefore, that our EFTA colleagues will give urgent consideration to this point.

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