

**START**

PREM 19/231

~~SECRET~~

Official visit to London by  
Herr Hans de Koster, President of the  
consultative assembly of the Council  
of Europe.

EUROPEAN DOGIC

- April 1980.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>18-4-79.</del> <del>13.5.80</del> 29.5.80							
PREM 19/231							

*Paul  
Lever*

*FF 10 9 80*

29 May 1980

Thank you for your letter of 27 May to Michael Alexander, following up the visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In the light of the advice set out in your letter, the Prime Minister would prefer to delay a decision on responding to Mr. de Koster's invitation until the early autumn.

I suggest that we should look at this again about 10 September.

M. A. PATTISON

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*K.A.  
Pattison  
- 2/6/80  
ed*



*Prime Minister*  
*Delay decision on ~~now~~ suspending*  
*to Mr de Koster's invitation until*  
*the early Autumn?*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 May 1980

*Dear Michael,*

*Yes Mr P - 27/5*

Visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the  
 Council of Europe

Thank you for your letter of 13 May about the two specific points which Mr de Koster raised during his call on the Prime Minister.

Mr de Koster also raised the question of the Council of Europe's budget with Mr Blaker. Mr Blaker made it clear that, at least for the next 4 or 5 years, the United Kingdom wished to maintain its contributions to several international organisations at their present level. As part of their drive to reduce government expenditure, HMG were seeking to prevent the budgets of international organisations from growing in real terms. Mr Blaker also took the opportunity to correct Mr de Koster's false impression about the size of the UK contribution, which will in fact amount to £4.398 million for 1980 (not £2 million).

Sir Frederic Bennett MP put to Mr Cape, the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the suggestion that the Prime Minister might address the Parliamentary Assembly. He pointed out that in the last 18 months it had been addressed by Chancellor Schmidt, by the Prime Ministers of Malta, Portugal, Spain and Turkey, and by several Foreign Ministers including those of Egypt and Israel.

A visit by the Prime Minister would be taken as a sign of our continuing support for the Council which does indeed provide a useful platform. The timing of the January session proposed by Mr de Koster is presumably flexible since there are 3 sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly each year, in January, April and September. However, the January session will take place during the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid, shortly after the new term of office of the US President begins and it could be a convenient occasion, for instance, for a major speech on East/West relations. All the same, Lord Carrington would not place a very high priority on the Council of Europe as the forum for a speech of this kind; and we do the Council quite well. The United Kingdom was represented last year by the Lord Chancellor's address on a subject which was particularly appropriate for the Council of Europe, that of Habeas Corpus and Human Rights. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be expected to appear before the Assembly in 1982 when he is Chairman of the Committee of Ministers. If the Prime Minister

/did not want



did not want to accept Mr de Koster's invitation it would be reasonable to wait until that occasion before seeking another opportunity for a representative of HMG to address the Assembly.

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON



27 MAY 1980

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 May 1980

Visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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Mr. de Koster paid a brief courtesy call on the Prime Minister this morning. Much of the discussion was taken up with a justification, on predictable lines, by Mr. de Koster of the value of the Council of Europe's work. Naturally enough he laid particular stress on the Council's function in providing a forum for meetings between the members of the Community and those European countries which do not belong to it. The Prime Minister agreed on the importance of this wider co-operation. She referred particularly to the help the Council of Europe could give in reducing Turkey's feelings of isolation following the accession of Greece to the Community.

Mr. de Koster raised two specific points. Firstly, he expressed the hope that Britain's contribution to the Council of Europe's budget would be maintained. He noted that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had only 46 officials to service it whereas the European Parliament had over 2,000 officials. He argued that the British contribution of £2 million was small - particularly compared with our contribution to the Community budget. The Prime Minister gave no commitment.

Secondly, Mr. de Koster asked the Prime Minister whether she would be prepared to come to Strasbourg to address the Parliamentary Assembly. He said that a speech of 20-30 minutes would suffice. It would also be normal for the Prime Minister to answer a few questions afterwards. Mr. Priestman, who was accompanying Mr. de Koster, suggested that the January session might be a good time for the Prime Minister to visit Strasbourg. The Prime Minister said she would look into the matter but, again, gave no commitment.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 May 1980

*Dear Michael,*

Visit of the President of the  
Parliamentary Assembly of the  
Council of Europe: 12-13 May 1980

Mr de Koster will be calling on the Prime Minister at 9.30 am on Tuesday 13 May. It will be primarily a courtesy call, but the President of the Assembly has said that he would like a brief tour d'horizon of the principal subjects he hopes to cover during his official visit to the UK:

- (a) Harmonization of European attitudes towards such international problems as Afghanistan, hostages in Iran, the Olympic Games, the Middle East, etc.
- (b) the UK's role in the Council of Europe.
- (c) the European Parliament and its tendency to poach on the territory of the Council of Europe's Assembly;
- (d) CSCE;

A brief is provided.

A biographical note is attached at Annex A and a copy of Mr de Koster's programme is at Annex B. The importance of his visit to the UK is primarily symbolic. It is important to him personally as a recognition of his long career as a European politician and former Dutch Cabinet Minister. It is important to the members of the Assembly whom he represents, to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, and to the governments of other member states as evidence of British support for the Council of Europe. For us it represents an opportunity to show publicly that we value the work of the Council.

Possibly because he was formerly Netherlands Minister of Defence, Mr de Koster takes a hard line towards the USSR. This may well account for the order in which he has placed his choice of subjects for discussion.

*Tavis*

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St  
London

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

DE KOSTER, HENRI J

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

DUTCH - LIBERAL

Born 5 November 1914 at Leiden (Netherlands). Read economics at Amsterdam University and continued his studies in London and Dublin.

During the war, was the leader of a resistance group dealing mainly with military intelligence.

In 1945-46, assistant Commissioner-General for the Netherlands Government Food Purchasing Bureau in New York.

President of the Netherlands Federation of Industries from 1961 to 1967. President of the Union of Industrial Federations of the EEC from 1962 to 1967.

Elected Member of Parliament in February 1967. Was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from June 1967 to 1971; and Minister of Defence from 1971 to 1973. Vice-President of the Federation of Liberal and Democratic Parties in the EEC 1975.

Member of the First Chamber of States General (Senate) since July 1977.

Decorations: Military Bronze Lion, Grand Officer Orange Nassau, Knight Netherlands Lion, Red Cross 1940-45 and several foreign decorations, a.o. Grand Cordon de l'Ordre du Mérite de Luxembourg, Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Couronne de Belgique, Gross Verdienstkreuz 1. Klasse of the Federal Republic of Germany, Commander 1. Klasse Verdienst Order of Austria.

Was Representative to the Council of Europe Assembly in 1967, then Substitute to the Assembly from November 1974, and Representative from January 1978. Elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly on 24 April 1978.

Married.

Speaks excellent English.



- 9 MAY 1990

VISIT TO LONDON OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: 12/13 MAY 1980

POINTS TO MAKE

(a) Harmonization of Attitudes towards International Problems

Welcome the resolutions and recommendations which the Parliamentary Assembly has been issuing on such subjects as Afghanistan, hostages in Iran, the Middle East and the Olympics. Glad also to be associated with declarations issued by the Committee of Ministers. Such gestures on the part of the Council and the Assembly particularly valuable since they enable voice of the neutrals to be heard.

(b) United Kingdom role in the Council of Europe

Council an important bridge between the Nine and the non-Nine: we want it to be an effective one. Council has done particularly valuable work on human rights. We play a full part in the inter-governmental Work Programme. But the Council tends to take on too much, thus diluting its efforts. Essential to establish its priorities.

(c) The European Parliament versus the Parliamentary Assembly

Direct elections to the European Parliament have not diminished the importance of the Council's Parliamentary Assembly. The Assembly has a much wider membership and provides a good forum for representatives of national parliaments to address.

(d) CSCE

Helsinki Agreement significant. Its potential is dependent on the readiness of signatories to fulfill their obligations. Council of Europe has developed into a valuable forum for exchange of views with the Neutrals.



VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
12/13 MAY

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. A background note on the Council of Europe is at Annex I. HMG's policy towards it, as endorsed by the Lord Privy Seal in October last, is set out at Annex II.
2. The UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, comprising 18 representatives and 18 substitutes, is led by Sir Frederic Bennett MP. The Labour group is led by Mr Tom Urwin MP and the Liberal group by Mr Alan Beith MP.

International Problems

3. We do not know whether Mr de Koster has views on how European attitudes should be harmonized towards Afghanistan, hostages in Iran, the Middle East and the Olympic Games, but both the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers have made useful pronouncements in recent months. Examples are at Annex III.

The UK and the Council of Europe

4. Our main current concern is to prevent the budget of the Council of Europe, including that of the Parliamentary Assembly, from growing year by year in real terms. The Council lacks self-discipline. It now has some 160 committees of various kinds, many of them studying subjects which are best left to other international organisations. We are trying to mobilize opposition to such duplication of effort.

European Parliament versus Parliamentary Assembly

5. The European Parliament's rules of procedure provide for



an annual report on its activities to be transmitted to the President of the Council of Europe Assembly. Mr de Koster regularly meets the President of the European Parliament informally. We understand that Mr de Koster detects a desire on the part of the Parliament to poach on the prerogatives of the Assembly. Although the Parliament's formal powers, as defined by the Treaties, can only be extended by a unanimous agreement of the member governments, it is nevertheless free to discuss any subject it chooses. It would not serve to promote good relations with the European Parliament if we were to seek to discourage it from discussing any particular subject,

#### CSCE

6. Consultations on CSCE preparations for this November's review meeting in Madrid have taken place twice a year both at Ministerial and Expert level in the Council of Europe. Unlike the UN Economic Commission for Europe, it has no specific role in the CSCE process. It does, however, provide a regular forum for discussions between the Nine and the neutrals. Unfortunately the time available and the disparate membership of the Council of Europe ensure that these discussions are rather general.

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe, set up in 1949, is now a grouping of 21 European States\* which subscribe to and are bound by the Council's Statute. This describes the aim of the Council as being to "achieve a greater unity among its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage" and provides that "Every Member of the Council of Europe must accept the principles of the rule of law and the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Council is organised to provide a framework for inter-governmental cooperation in the fields of culture, education, health, social welfare, crime prevention, harmonisation of legislation and youth affairs (defence is specifically excluded). To fulfil its responsibility for the preservation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, it maintains judicial machinery as provided for in the European Convention on Human Rights, to which all Members have subscribed.

Its Parliamentary Assembly provides a parliamentary link between member countries. It is now gaining additional significance as a forum which brings together the nine EC countries with the other democratic States of Europe.

The seat of the Council of Europe is at Strasbourg; it also has offices in Paris and Brussels. The official languages are English and French. In addition, German and Italian are used as working languages.

Institutions

The Committee of Ministers meets twice a year at Ministerial level and twice monthly at Deputy (Permanent Representative) level. As well as using this forum for political discussion, Ministers sometimes take decisions on matters of importance referred to them by their Deputies. Most decision-making, however, takes place at the level of Ministers' Deputies.

The Parliamentary Assembly comprises representatives from the Parliaments of the Member States. The Assembly normally meets three times a year to discuss, among other things, papers prepared by a number of specialist Parliamentary Committees and

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\*Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

to pass Opinions, Resolutions or Recommendations. The Recommendations call on the Committee of Ministers to take action.

The Secretariat serves the two organs of the Council of Europe, including a large number of inter-governmental expert committees responsible to the Committee of Ministers. The Secretary-General, though elected by the Assembly, is also responsible to the Committee of Ministers for the general administration of the organisation.

Part of the Council's work is carried out by institutions set up specially for the purpose, eg the European Commission of Human Rights, the Court of Human Rights, the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation.

The Committee of Ministers, normally at Deputy level, also has specific and important responsibilities to fulfil under the European Convention on Human Rights (concluded under Council of Europe auspices in 1950).

The principal vehicle used by the Council for advancing its objectives is the promotion of Conventions and Agreements, which now number over 100.



## BRITISH POLICY TOWARDS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

We see the present-day role of the Council of Europe in the following terms:

- (a) As a focus for the essential unity of democratic Europe, bringing together the Nine member States of the Community and the other democratic States of Europe;
- (b) As the defender of the moral and political values of the parliamentary democratic States of Europe;
- (c) As protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms as defined in the European Convention;
- (d) As bringing together parliamentarians from member countries through its Parliamentary Assembly (defence questions are excluded);
- (e) Providing a unique framework for intergovernmental cooperation in culture, education, youth, health, social welfare, crime problems and harmonisation of legislation.

These aims are all ones which the Government would wish to support. FCO policy towards the Council might therefore be summarized as follows:

- (a) to preserve the standing of the Council ensuring that it upholds the highest moral and political values and to gain within it further support for British attitudes and policies;
- (b) to support the European Convention on Human Rights, the only human rights convention with effective provisions for legal enforcement; but, when proceedings are taken against the UK, to ensure that our case is cogently put and robustly defended.
- (c) to use the Council as a bridge between the members and non-members of the EEC: and
- (d) to give full support to the work of the Council of Europe while avoiding duplication with other organisations and restricting the Council's cost.

Provisional edition

## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

WRR cor/3

RECOMMENDATION 889 (1980) (1)

on the crisis in Afghanistan

PA	
5/85	12/24/83

The Assembly,

1. Gravely concerned at the serious deterioration in the international situation caused by the invasion of Afghanistan by the armed forces of the Soviet Union;
2. Considering this intervention to constitute another flagrant violation of the principles of non-recourse to force, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and of the fundamental human rights;
3. Considering as totally unacceptable the public explanations given by the USSR in an attempt to justify its intervention, which was immediately followed by the murder of the then rulers of Afghanistan;

./.

- (1) Assembly debate on 30 and 31 January 1980 (24th and 25th sittings). See Doc. 4485, report of the Political Affairs Committee. Text adopted by the Assembly on 31 January 1980 (25th sitting).

4. Reaffirming its attachment to the idea of détente and to the process intended by, for example, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), but recalling that the principles of détente, in their full implementation are neither divisible nor limited to certain geographical regions and that the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan must not lead to the cessation of the efforts for détente, which would harm the members of the group of non-aligned countries which are being called on to join one bloc or the other;
5. Aware of the part which Europe can play in the extension of the policy of détente to the third world countries, which are suffering from under-development and are the most affected by the repercussions of the deterioration in East-West relations on international economic co-operation;
6. Considering that, by virtue of the principles and aims laid down in its Statute and of its membership, consisting of 21 Western European parliamentary democracies, among them several neutral countries, the Council of Europe is expected to make a specific and significant contribution to solving the problems of international peace and security;
7. Shares the doubts expressed by the Committee of Ministers, at an extraordinary meeting on 18 January 1980, as to the intentions of the USSR regarding the détente, for which the Council of Europe has never ceased to strive, and supports the Committee of Ministers' call for an immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan;
8. Appeals to the governments of Council of Europe member states to take immediate action, in association with the competent United Nations bodies, in order to give humanitarian aid to the Afghan refugees leaving their country as a result of the Soviet invasion;
9. Declares its solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who should have the right freely to determine their own future without external interference;
10. Stresses that the policy of détente is seriously jeopardised as long as the sovereignty and independence of a state are being violated by a power which is a signatory to the Helsinki Agreements;
11. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers urge the governments of member states, guided by the above principles, to take a firm and vigorous stance on the events in Afghanistan, within the relevant international bodies, notably with a view to the Madrid Conference on the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, and to affirm active solidarity with the countries of the third world.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATION 883 (1979) (1)

TRD 3/4<sup>50</sup> MAH 31/2

on the seizure of hostages and the occupation  
of the United States Embassy in Teheran

The Assembly,

1. Recalling the basic principles of the Council of Europe, whose Statute expresses in its preamble the conviction that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international co-operation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilisation, as well as its devotion of the values of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law;
2. Recalling that these principles have been implemented by the Council of Europe through the adoption of such international instruments as the Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism;
3. Considering that the protection of diplomats is an essential condition in international relations, and recalling in this connection the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to which Iran is a party, and Resolution (74) 3 of the Committee of Ministers on International Terrorism, as well as other texts of the Committee of Ministers calling for the protection of diplomats,
4. Welcomes and associates itself with the telegram addressed on 15 November 1979 by the President of the Assembly to the Iranian Head of State, expressing deep concern at the detention of the staff of the United States Embassy in Teheran, quoting Resolution 712 of 11 October 1979, in which the Assembly expressed the hope that it will not be long before Europe is able to find in a democratic Iran a partner linked to her by shared principles of individual liberty, political freedom and rule of law;

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- (1) Text adopted by the Standing Committee acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 22 November 1979. See Doc. 4453, draft recommendation presented by the Bureau of the Assembly.

5. Reiterates its past condemnations of all terrorist acts, including hostage taking, which regardless of their cause consist of calculated violence or threats of violence against innocent people;
6. Deplores the continued occupation of the United States Embassy and detention of its occupants as contrary to the most elementary humanitarian principles, as well as a violation of fundamental obligations under international law relating to diplomatic personnel and premises;
7. Encourages all European governments to make plain their utter condemnation of such methods, and believes that the temptation to keep silence for reasons of immediate economic or political self-interest can only endanger the very fabric of international co-operation and peace;
8. Urges the Iranian authorities to release the hostages forthwith, thus putting an end to a situation which risks seriously affecting the relations with Iran of all states respecting the rule of law;
9. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers, as the organ responsible for the external relations of the Council of Europe, expresses at its current 65th session its clear condemnation of this continuing situation, as well as its solidarity with those resisting such acts of international blackmail, in accordance with the principles subscribed to by the governments of all member states.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Provisional edition

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION 728 (1980) (1)

on the situation in the Middle East

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RECEIVED BY REGISTER UNIT 13	
- 1 MAY 1980	
DPSK OFFICE	
INDEX	11

The Assembly,

1. Recalling its previously adopted resolutions on the subject on the conflict in the Middle East, stressing already in 1971 (Resolution 490) the vital interest of Europe and the important role which she could play in pursuing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, as well as the necessary participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestinians, in negotiations for a peace treaty to include agreement on secure and recognised frontiers for all the countries in the region;
2. Considering that for accidental, historical and geographical reasons, Europe has a duty to contribute to a peaceful solution to the conflict;
3. Having heard the Ministers of State or Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan in plenary session at Strasbourg;

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(1) Assembly debate on 22 and 23 April 1980 (3rd, 4th and 5th sittings). See Doc. 4524 report of the Political Affairs Committee. Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 April 1980 (5th sitting).

4. Having taken note of the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 4524), based on hearings with the spokesmen of the principal interested parties, including Ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of the PLO and the Arab League, and President Carter's Special Ambassador to the Middle East;
5. Recalling its recent condemnation, in Recommendation 852 (1979), of "all terrorist acts which, regardless of their cause, consist of calculated violence against innocent people";
6. Wishing to contribute to the search for a solution to the serious crisis which affects the states of the Middle East as well as hundreds of thousands of refugees;
7. Welcoming the efforts undertaken by Israel and Egypt, following the courageous initiative of President Sadat and the rapid and constructive response from Prime Minister Begin and other Israeli political leaders (the opposition included), to put an end, in the framework of the Camp David Accords, to the 30-year conflict between these two states, but regretting that these accords, important as they are, cannot up to now be seen as constituting a basis for the hoped-for comprehensive agreement;
8. Acknowledging that recognition of the PLO as the representative organisation of the Palestinians will be contested by several European governments as long as it has not recognised the legitimacy of the state of Israel and renounced recourse to violence;
9. Believing that recognition of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by force and the recognition of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people are fundamental elements in the political settlement of the Middle East conflict;
10. Reaffirms the right to existence, security and independence of the state of Israel, while recognising the same rights for the states neighbouring Israel;
11. Condemns the Israeli settlements policy in the occupied territories, which is contrary to international law and compromises the chances of achieving a just and lasting peace;
12. Stresses that the refusal of Israel to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence constitutes, like the refusal of the PLO to recognise the state of Israel's right to exist, an obstacle to the solution of the present crisis;
13. Concerned at the particularly tragic situation in Lebanon, calls for an end to the fighting, the bombardments and the violence which are fragmenting the country which longs for the return of peace with sovereignty and independence;

14. Considers that recent events in Iran and Afghanistan, which have created new areas of tension in other countries of the region and constitute dangerous destabilising factors, render a just and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict more urgent;

15. Without prejudicing any future negotiations, considers that definition of the future status of Jerusalem should take account not only of political factors, but also of the religious dimension of the Holy Places;

16. Appeals to all parties concerned to make the reciprocal concessions leading to respect for the right of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples to determine their own future, a right which should be endorsed by the international community;

17. Appeals to the governments of member states of the Council of Europe to co-ordinate their action within the United Nations with a view to completing or replacing Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), which reduces the problem of the Palestinian people to a refugee problem, and to work for the introduction, under precise conditions, of collective and effective guarantees for the inviolability of the frontiers which will result from the negotiations which should take place;

18. Hopes that the member states of the Council of Europe will contribute bilaterally and multilaterally to the harmonious and democratic development of this region;

19. Invites the members of this Assembly to intervene in their national parliaments and with their governments with a view to securing implementation of the provisions of this resolution.



C.D.  
HARRIS (12) (2)

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

# CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Provisional edition

## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Doc. 4485	
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RESOLUTION 719 (1980) (1)

on the Moscow Olympic Games

The Assembly,

1. Recalling its Recommendation 889, on the crisis in Afghanistan and Resolution 718, on the arrest and forced exile of Dr. Andrei SAKHAROV;
2. Bearing in mind the unchanging moral values underlying democracy and sport, draws to the attention of the National Olympic Committees of member states and the athletes of Europe the seriousness of the events which have taken place in Afghanistan during the last month together with the treatment accorded to Professor Sakharov, and urges them to take these events into account in making their decisions as to whether to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow or in the ceremonies associated with them;
3. Calls on European governments, in the light of their contacts with their National Olympic Committees and through them with the International Olympic Committee, to endeavour to concert in the framework of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for sport a common position with regard to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

- (1) Assembly debate on 30 and 31 January 1980 (24th and 25th sittings).  
See Doc. 4485, report of the Political Affairs Committee.  
Text adopted by the Assembly on 31 January 1980 (25th sitting).

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Provisional edition

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

WRR 02/3

- 5 JAN 1980

RECOMMENDATION 889 (1980) (1)  
on the crisis in Afghanistan

BOOK OFFICE	
INDEX	PA
SAS	NDAY/3

The Assembly,

1. Gravely concerned at the serious deterioration in the international situation caused by the invasion of Afghanistan by the armed forces of the Soviet Union;
2. Considering this intervention to constitute another flagrant violation of the principles of non-recourse to force, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and of the fundamental human rights;
3. Considering as totally unacceptable the public explanations given by the USSR in an attempt to justify its intervention, which was immediately followed by the murder of the then rulers of Afghanistan;

./.

- (1) Assembly debate on 30 and 31 January 1980 (24th and 25th sittings). See Doc. 4485, report of the Political Affairs Committee. Text adopted by the Assembly on 31 January 1980 (25th sitting).

4. Reaffirming its attachment to the idea of détente and to the process intended by, for example, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), but recalling that the principles of détente, in their full implementation are neither divisible nor limited to certain geographical regions and that the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan must not lead to the cessation of the efforts for détente, which would harm the members of the group of non-aligned countries which are being called on to join one bloc or the other;
5. Aware of the part which Europe can play in the extension of the policy of détente to the third world countries, which are suffering from under-development and are the most affected by the repercussions of the deterioration in East-West relations on international economic co-operation;
6. Considering that, by virtue of the principles and aims laid down in its Statute and of its membership, consisting of 21 Western European parliamentary democracies, among them several neutral countries, the Council of Europe is expected to make a specific and significant contribution to solving the problems of international peace and security;
7. Shares the doubts expressed by the Committee of Ministers, at an extraordinary meeting on 18 January 1980, as to the intentions of the USSR regarding the détente, for which the Council of Europe has never ceased to strive, and supports the Committee of Ministers' call for an immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan;
8. Appeals to the governments of Council of Europe member states to take immediate action, in association with the competent United Nations bodies, in order to give humanitarian aid to the Afghan refugees leaving their country as a result of the Soviet invasion;
9. Declares its solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who should have the right freely to determine their own future without external interference;
10. Stresses that the policy of détente is seriously jeopardised as long as the sovereignty and independence of a state are being violated by a power which is a signatory to the Helsinki Agreements;
11. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers urge the governments of member states, guided by the above principles, to take a firm and vigorous stance on the events in Afghanistan, within the relevant international bodies, notably with a view to the Madrid Conference on the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, and to affirm active solidarity with the countries of the third world.

Declarations from the Committee  
of Ministers

APPENDIX

IRAN

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, meeting in Lisbon, reaffirms the Council's profound attachment, and that of its member States, to the rule of law and the universal respect of human rights, and firmly condemns the use of violence and terrorism as an instrument of policy.

The Committee condemns the violation of these principles in Iran and expresses its anxiety over its repercussions on the international situation.

It appeals urgently to the Iranian authorities to take the necessary measures for the immediate liberation of the American hostages who have now been sequestered for more than five months.

The Committee moreover stresses anew the importance it attaches to the full respect of the terms of the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations. It condemns violations of this Convention by Iran and deplores the hostage taking in Bogota.

AFGHANISTAN

As early as 18 January 1980 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe condemned the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet armed forces. Meeting at Lisbon at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Committee expresses its profound anxiety at the aggravation of the situation brought about by this invasion.

It strongly reiterates its demand for the total, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet invasion army.

It calls for the establishment of conditions enabling the Afghan people to choose their own future freely and without outside interference or pressure. It assures the Afghan people of its solidarity in their present ordeal.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1

12 May.

Telephone 01-

Miss C Stephens  
10 Downing Street

Your reference

Our reference

Date 28 April 1980

28. 28/4  
Dear Miss Stephens,

COUNCIL OF EUROPE: OFFICIAL VISIT TO  
LONDON BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of today in which we agreed that the Prime Minister will meet Mr de Koster at 3.00pm on 12 May. Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,  
Jonk Ann Sarginson

J A Sarginson (Miss)  
Western European Department

jfh

Euro Pal.

18 April 1980

BF 8.5.80

Council of Europe: Official Visit to London  
by the President of the Consultative  
Assembly

I am replying to your letter of 15 April to Michael Alexander about the visit to London of Herr Hans de Koster.

The Prime Minister would be happy to see him and may I offer you Monday 12 May at 1730 at 10 Downing Street. Could we please have your briefing by close of play on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

CS

SP

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010

Prime Minister: Michael Alexander doesn't  
feel this is worth your time but  
contact for me to give him 2 hr? cf 16/4  
Pini Stephens: ?



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Yes pls

London SW1A 2AH

15 April 1980

Dear Michael,

Council of Europe: Official visit to London  
by the President of the Consultative Assembly

Herr Hans de Koster, President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, is to pay an official visit to London on 12 and 13 May. He is a Dutch Liberal and was elected President of the Assembly in April 1978. This will be his first official visit to Britain.

In addition to meetings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Herr de Koster has expressed a particular desire to call on the Prime Minister.

Herr de Koster, a former Dutch Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (June 1967 to 1971) and Minister of Defence (from 1971 to 1973), has proved to be a respected and effective President of the Assembly. Although the Council of Europe commands little of the time of senior Ministers from the leading Western European countries, the smaller countries attach importance to it. They notice and sometimes resent the relative lack of attention paid to it by the larger countries. The Assembly is the driving force of the Council of Europe and is both a useful sounding board for new ideas and a good platform for political pronouncements. If the Prime Minister could have a brief talk with him it would help show that the UK still attaches importance to the work of the Council of Europe.

Herr de Koster's programme has not yet been worked out. We should therefore be able to find a time on either day to suit the Prime Minister's convenience.

Yours ever

Paul

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London

15 APR 1961

11 12 1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9



**END**