

PREM 19/1234

PART 1

Confidential Filing

Next Election to the European Parliament. Relations between the UK Parliament and the direct elected European Parliament.

EUROPEAN POLICY

(See also: Euro.Pol.: June 1980: Public Attitudes to Europe)

May 1979.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
31.5.79.		19.1.81					
8.6.79		27.1.81					
21.6.79		22.1.82					
29.6.79		16.3.82					
9.7.79		16.2.83					
12.7.79		22.2.83					
6.7.79		24.2.83					
19.7.79		29.4.83					
21.7.79		1/9/83					
22.7.79		21/1/83					
17.8.79		3.2.83					
21.8.79		23.1.84					
25.10.79		26.1.84					
13.12.79		31.1.84					
19.12.79		1/2/84					
7.1.80		10.2.84					
8.1.80		15.2.84					
17.1.80		28.2.84					
29.1.80		19.3.84					
5.2.80							
6.2.80							
30.4.80							

PREM 19/1234

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● PART Pt 1 ends:-

s/s DES to FCS 19/3.

PART Pt 2 begins:-

Rome tel 415 12/6.

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
L(83) 29	07/02/1983
CC(83) 6 th Meeting, item 3	24/02/1983
CC(83) 2 nd Meeting, item 3	27/01/1983
H(83) 1 st Meeting, item 2	17/01/1983
H(83) 2	11/01/1983
H(82) 27	04/06/1982
L(80) 55	30/10/1980
H(80) 45	25/06/1980
H(80) 15 th Meeting, item 1	02/07/1980
OD(E)(80) 16	07/05/1980
OD(E)(79) 21 st Meeting, item 1	13/12/1979
OD(E)(79) 49 Addendum	07/12/1979
OD(E)(79) 49	07/12/1979
CC(79) 18 th Meeting, item 1	25/10/1979
OD(E)(79) 27	27/07/1979
CC(79) 10 th Meeting, item 3	19/07/1979

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed J. Gray

Date 18/9/2013

PREM Records Team

Published Papers

The following published paper(s) enclosed on this file have been removed and destroyed. Copies may be found elsewhere in The National Archives.

House of Commons HANSARD, 26 January 1984, columns 1147 to 1163: European Assembly Elections

Signed

S. Gray

Date

18/9/2013

PREM Records Team



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
Whitehall
London SW1H

19. March 1984

nbpm
DMB
19/3

Sir Geoffrey,

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

I am responding to your minute of 27 February which invited lists of policy initiatives which might be announced during the European elections campaign.

I enclose such a list for the Department of Education and Science, with approximate dates. As you will appreciate, precise dates are in most cases uncertain, and will depend on a variety of factors. I have included three possible announcements concerned with European co-operation in science. The first of these, part of our work aimed at getting value for money both domestically and in Europe, will no doubt be seen by some as casting doubts on our commitment to European co-operation. But I do not expect it to have a major impact on the public at large.

I should add that I expect to attend an Education Council in Brussels on 21 May. The agenda has yet to be settled, but I shall consider when the time comes whether it provides an opportunity for helpful publicity.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of your minute.

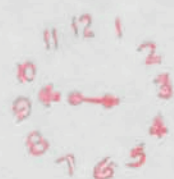
Enclosure / Kerr

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: LIST OF POLICY STATEMENTS UP TO 14 JUNE

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Approximate Date</u>	<u>Impact on UK public</u>
<u>Schools</u>		
Policy statement on science curriculum	April/May	Favourable
Examination to supplement A levels	April/May	Mixed: but majority favourable
Decision on re-organisation of Liverpool's secondary schools	April/May	Uncertain
Decision on 16+ examinations	June	Mixed
<u>Teaching Quality</u>		
Establishment of Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education	April/May	Favourable
<u>Higher Education</u>		
Proposed enquiry into validation of non-university courses	April/May	Favourable
University efficiency study	April	Favourable
Grants for EC students (possible statement following reference to European Court)	May	Unfavourable (but timing determined by courts)
<u>Science</u>		
Review of European cooperation in high energy particle physics (announcement of review)	April	Unfavourable to articulate minority
Spallation neutron source at Rutherford Appleton laboratory: proposal for European participation	May/June	Favourable
Review of European Molecular Biology Laboratory (announcement of outcome of review - to remain a member)	April	Favourable

Two. P1 : Direct Elections to the European Parl.

1. 9 MAR 1984





10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Sherborne.

I have told the F./C.O.

that in future papers on this
subject should not be an
government notepaper and should
not bear the inscription "Foreign
and Commercial Office"

Mr. Gals

M 25/2

I am bound to say
— I did wonder!

Repen

M 29/2

28/2.

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 22/2.



FCS/84/57

ALL CABINET COLLEAGUES

European Elections

This was not a cabinet meeting - but a party meeting. MI.

~~~~~

1. At our meeting on 23 February we agreed that Ministers should look at Departmental work with a view to identifying policy initiatives which could be timed for announcement during the European elections campaign, or incorporated in the manifesto. I would be grateful if all colleagues could follow this up and let me have by 19 March a list of such initiatives, whether domestic or European, indicating timing and including an assessment of the impact of the announcement.

~~~~~

2. In the period between now and the European elections, issues of policy will arise in the European Parliament which could offer scope to the opposition to exaggerate differences between the EDG and the Government. It will, therefore, be important to take steps to be aware in advance of any potential problems, and to engage in closer and deeper consultation with the relevant EDG Spokesmen than would be necessary at other times. I would be grateful if colleagues would alert Ministers, Special Advisers and, where appropriate, officials, to the need to follow this up. The Party Chairman and I have already stressed to EDG leaders the importance of their Spokesmen taking the initiative to contact Departments, but we should not rely on this alone. Quite often, I fear, an initiative may well be necessary from the Government side.

/3.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



3. I am sending copies of this letter to all Cabinet colleagues, the Party Chairman, the Chief Whip, and to Peter Cropper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
27 February 1984

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

CABINET: Thursday 16th February 1984

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

1. This is the first item on the agenda. No official will be present. Michael Alison and I will be present.
2. The Chairman has not produced any paper.
3. I have prepared a short brief for you (attached) in three parts:
 - (a) The current position on preparation for the elections - Flag A
 - (b) Key points for the Cabinet discussion - Flag B
 - (c) Your engagements during the European elections - Flag C
4. I have shown this note to Michael Alison. No copy has been made.

Steve

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

15th February 1984

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

A. THE CURRENT POSITION ON PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTIONS

- A1. The Information Campaign is now under way. This campaign is spending the money allotted to the Party by the European Parliament. It has a cut-off date of 14th April. Up to this date, the money^{is} being spent on leaflets, promotional activities, newspaper advertising (to start next month, I think) and the "European Handbook" (alias the "Campaign Guide" which has to go under another name to qualify for the money which is available for information, not electioneering; it is however remaining political in content).
- A2. There is one slight oddity about the expenditure of this money. It is being controlled by a committee under the chairmanship of Edward Kellett-Bowman (as the money strictly goes to the EDG); and because he has not been given any clear guidance on campaign themes, the message during this information campaign, up to April 14th, is in effect being determined by Edward Kellett-Bowman and Saatchi's together.
- A3. After April 14th the Party will be spending its own money, in whatever way it chooses. But shortage of finance will prevent an advertising campaign. This may well arouse criticism from colleagues, or in time from the Party, because evidence suggests that any effect of the pre-April 14th campaign will be lost by June 14th.
- A4. The first draft of the Manifesto is expected to go forward to the committee chaired by Geoffrey Howe on 23rd February. This has been drafted by Adam Ridley, John Houston (Geoffrey Howe's special adviser) and one or two others. It has gone through the Rifkind sub-committee on its way to Geoffrey Howe.

E.R.

A5. A Draft Organisation Strategy Paper for the campaign has been produced, which deals fairly comprehensively with organisational issues. I think, however, there is one gap - on co-ordination between Party and Government which is more difficult when the Government is working at its normal pace. There may be a role here for special advisers but it will need to be carefully thought out.

A6. There is one other gap. Despite your request to Geoffrey Howe for a "clear and co-ordinated campaign strategy" - (your letter to Geoffrey Howe dated 18th January, sent to help him put pressure on the Chairman) - no such co-ordinated strategy has been formulated. Of course, much will depend on the outcome of the March summit. But there will be some basic themes we want to develop, whatever the outcome of the summit. Insufficient thought has been given to what these should be, how they should be deployed and the line we take with the Opposition parties. The result is that so far the information campaign, the preparation of the Manifesto and the organisation strategy are all being developed independent of one another.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

B KEY POINTS FOR THE CABINET DISCUSSION

- B1. The need for a co-ordinated campaign strategy (see para A6 above); and to identify a few clear priorities.
- B2. The need to use the time from now on:
- (a) to develop our case
 - (b) to undermine the position of the other parties (should officials in Departments be asked to analyse the Opposition's policies, and cost them, as happened during the General Election?)
- B3. The need for Ministers to keep the election in mind when running departments.
- B4. Are there any policy announcements which could be made during the campaign to breathe more life into it.
- B5. The need to win a commitment from Ministers for their time during the campaign (though, as this has been left till fairly late in the day, Ministers' diaries are already heavily committed by their departments).

C PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Friday 18th May? (Question mark now over this date because Saturday's papers are slight)

am Launch European Manifesto CCO

pm Speak to European candidates

Wednesday 23rd May

Conservative Women's Conference Barbican

(Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June: Whitsun Recess)

Wednesday 30th May

Visit to Banbury Banbury
(Sir Henry Plumb)

Monday 4th June (House returns)

early Press Conference for European CCO
am Election

(Possible visit to Euro-constituency)

Wednesday 6th June

Visit to Normandy
40th anniversary of D-day

Monday 11th June

early Record Party Political Broadcast
am for Tuesday 12th June.

Wednesday 13th June

early Final Press Conference for European CCO
am Election

Sub

c. (LPO)
HO
LEO
HMT
FCO
DES
NIO
MOD

DTI
DTI
WO
SO
DEW.
MAFF
DHSS
CS-HMT

LPS
DEP.
DEP.
COL
CO
DEP (Chairman)
CWO



10 DOWNING STREET

10 February 1984

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

There will be a discussion of the European Elections before Cabinet on Thursday, 16 February. The Prime Minister would be grateful if all Cabinet Ministers, plus the Chief Whip and the Chairman of the Party, could attend at 0945 in the Cabinet Room. Officials will not be present for this discussion, which will be followed by a meeting of the Cabinet.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to all Cabinet Ministers, to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Emma Oxford in the Chairman's Office. A copy also goes for information to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones,
Lord President's Office.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

The Government are aware that in Britain in particular there is a lack of understanding of the underlying advantages and opportunities the Community affords. I think that progress on the budget problem will make it easier for us, as no doubt for Members of the European Parliament, to put across in public the need for a strong and viable Community which, as you say, today's world certainly requires.

NO JAN 1980



FILE

BH
GWD
BWH

The Paul HOWELL

(EP)

15/2

17 January 1980

I enclose a letter received by the Prime Minister from Paul Howell in EP about the Government's European policy.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for a reply to be sent to Mr Howell on the Prime Minister's behalf and for a copy to be sent to us for our records.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Michael Richardson Esq
Lord Privy Seal's Office

11

16 January 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 11 January about the Government's European policy.

Your letter is receiving consideration and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M O'D B A

Paul Howell, Esq., M.E.P.

TRK

De Europæiske Fællesskaber
EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
Europäische Gemeinschaften
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT
European Communities
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Communautés Européennes
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN
Comunità Europee
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO
Europese Gemeenschappen
EUROPEES PARLEMENT

From: PAUL HOWELL, M.E.P.



European Parliament

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London. S.W.1.

Prime Minister.
Would you like to send the substantive
reply to this yourself or shall I ask
Sir Ian Blair to do so?

11th January 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

May I first express my own thanks to you for finding time to address and talk with Members of the European Democratic Group in Church House on Tuesday. I am sure you will know that all of us were thoroughly delighted to hear your views and to be able to express our own views to you, especially at this time of great difficulty, not only at home, but in the Community and around the world.

All of us were well aware of the irrefutable justice in the British case with regard to the Community Budget; equally we are agreed in the necessity of a fundamental reform of the C.A.P. Furthermore, we all look forward to the speedy resolution of all problems besetting the Community today.

There is concern however, that the Government has lost a sense of vision in what type of European Community it is seeking to build. Are the 1980's to be a stagnant period of community development, or is the Community to move forward once more after solutions are found to today's special difficulties?

Following the resolution of those problems, what constructive plans are the Government considering to help build the strong and viable community that today's world surely requires?

It is this European constructive vision that I fear, amongst all our problems, we have perhaps lost sight of, and I would be grateful if you would inform me of the Government's view of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Howell

Paul Howell, M.E.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Five
cc
20(CE) Enns R. JH
(FCO)
HMT
hd Pres
hd Privy Seal
MAFF
D/Trade
9 January 1980
Att-Gen.

Mr Rosene,

cc Budget-Enns - P44

MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

I sent you yesterday a brief summary of the main points that came up in the course of the Prime Minister's "private" meeting with the Members of the European Parliament at Church House. In the light of the interest which has been aroused about the Prime Minister's remarks on possible solutions to the budget problem, you and the other recipients of my letter may like to have a more detailed account of what the Prime Minister said on this subject.

The Prime Minister began by responding to Sir Fred Catherwood's assertion that there was growing sympathy in the European Parliament for the proposition that the contribution of each member state to the Community budget should be in line with its GNP. The Prime Minister said that this was a concept with which she would of course have much sympathy. However, to have it adopted as a basis for calculating budgetary contributions would involve a total reform of the system of Community financing. This would take far too long to effect.

The Prime Minister then identified four elements which would be, or might be, relevant to a solution of the budgetary difficulty:-

(a) Action on the contribution side of the budget. The Prime Minister said that agreement on a corrective mechanism to deal with this issue had been, in effect, reached at Dublin.

(b) Action on the receipts side of the budget on the basis of existing procedures. It was essential that a larger proportion of Community expenditure should come to the UK. This might involve the introduction of new schemes for Community expenditure. The UK had put forward a number of suggestions. These included the coal industry, transport system and Ulster.

(c) The establishment of a receipts mechanism. The Prime Minister said that one basis for such a mechanism would be that it should ensure that Britain received receipts at a level of 75 or 80 per cent of the average received by each of the other members of the Community per head of population.

/(d)

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(d) Action on restructuring the budget as a whole. This, according to the Prime Minister, was an essential objective. But it would be extremely difficult to achieve rapid action on the amendment of the deeply entrenched provisions of the CAP.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD(E) and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DISTRIBUTION

TREASURY
LORD PRESIDENT
LORD PRIVY SEAL
MAFF
TRADE
TRANSPORT

CO

cc Master det
cc Euro Budget



file 26
Euro PSI

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 January 1980

MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

As you know, the Prime Minister had an informal meeting with the members of the European Democratic Group in the European Parliament at Church House this afternoon. Although the meeting had been billed as an informal occasion when the Prime Minister could circulate among the MEPs and get to know them, it in fact turned out to be a question and answer session of a rather more formal kind.

Most of the questions were predictable in content and the Prime Minister replied along standard lines. However, one or two raised specific points on which the Prime Minister's replies should be recorded.

Sir Fred Catherwood and Sir Fred Warner asked about the relationship between the MEPs and the Government machine. Sir Fred Catherwood proposed specifically that a special Committee should be set up within the Cabinet Committee structure. This Committee might be chaired by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and have as members two or three Ministers concerned with Europe, Mr. Scott-Hopkins and one or two other members of the European Democratic Group. Sir Fred Warner thought that such a Committee would make it possible for MEPs to make available to the Government the special knowledge they were acquiring in Strasbourg. The Prime Minister, in reply, said that Cabinet Committees were where final decisions were taken by the Government. If the MEPs wanted to feed in ideas, this should be done at an earlier stage in the Governmental process. The natural way to do this was through the usual contacts with Departments, with Members of the Westminster Parliament and with research groups.

Mrs. Madron Seligman raised the question of the possibility of the nomination of a clerk from the House of Commons to be present in Strasbourg to act as a representative of the National Parliament during the sessions of the European Parliament. He would be responsible for distributing documents from Westminster and for keeping MEPs in the picture about progress of business there. The Prime Minister said that she thought it should be possible for the functions envisaged by Mrs. Seligman to be carried out by those already in Strasbourg. It should be possible for MEPs, a few of whom were also Members of the Westminster Parliament, to keep themselves in the picture by making energetic use of the existing facilities.

/In discussion

In discussion of the British contribution to the Community Budget, the Prime Minister stressed the following points, among others:-

- (a) there was no question of Britain leaving the European Community;
- (b) the Government had put forward a number of suggestions for areas in which Community expenditure in the United Kingdom could be initiated or increased, e.g. the coal industry, transport and Ulster. However, any money received from the Community would have to be in substitution for existing expenditure;
- (c) the 1 per cent VAT ceiling would have to be observed (this was in response to a direct question from Peter Price about the Prime Minister's willingness to move to a 2½ per cent VAT ceiling in order to make room for greater expenditure on the social and regional fronts);
- (d) the Prime Minister would be well content if Britain's net contribution ended up on more or less the same level as that of France;
- (e) the Government hoped that the Budget problems would be sorted out "by the next meeting of the European Council".

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD(E) and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 January 1980

~~Prime Minister~~
 H.S.

(2)

Paul
 -

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Meeting with MEPs:
Tuesday 8 January

I enclose a brief for the Prime Minister's use when she meets members of the European Democratic Group on Tuesday 8 January.

UK MEPs receive written, factual background briefs for each session of the European Parliament as a matter of course; the subjects which they seem most likely to raise with the Prime Minister are:

- (i) The 1980 Budget;
- (ii) Budget/Convergence;
- (iii) The Common Agricultural Policy;
- (iv) Relations between MEPs and the UK Parliament;
- (v) Accommodation in London for UK MEPs;
- (vi) Briefing for UK MEPs;
- (vii) EEC/Rhodesia;
- (viii) Political co-operation, especially Afghanistan.

The European Democratic Group is also meeting the Chancellor of the Exchequer at 10.30 am on Wednesday 9 January and the Lord Privy Seal at 5.30 pm the same day.

I am copying this letter to John Stevens (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
 10 Downing Street

1771980

123456789

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP MEPS:
8 JANUARY

POINTS TO MAKE

1980 BUDGET

1. Will take some time before 1980 budget can be adopted. Meanwhile no reason for there to be a financial crisis: twelfths system seems likely to provide Commission with adequate funds over at least first 3-4 months of year.
2. Recognise strength of some of the arguments put by EDG MEPs during budget discussion last year. Do not challenge validity of points they made, particularly on cuts in certain sections of CAP expenditure. Glad UK MEPs voted against co-responsibility levy which was in a form prejudicial to UK.
3. This time we hope to ensure that their points can be reflected at an early stage (i.e. in the draft budget established by the Council) so that we can avoid another institutional clash which would be damaging to the Community as a whole.
4. What are the crucial points for the Parliament? How far do they expect the Council to go? A gesture only towards more structural expenditure and less agricultural, or something more substantial? It would be unrealistic to expect, given power of European farming lobby, that swingeing cuts in agricultural spending could be realised immediately. Not all ways of cutting CAP (e.g. some elements in Commission economy package) would be in UK interests.
5. We must clearly build on present concurrence of interests between HMG and European Parliament. We fully recognise Parliament's budgetary powers as laid down in the Treaties and the various financial regulations and are of course content that they should be used to the full, but the Parliament must continue to use their powers responsibly

/and

and constructively. We do not favour any extension of the Parliament's present powers. In particular we believe that the Council should continue to be the primary policy-making body.

BUDGET/CONVERGENCE

6. Lord Privy Seal has just begun a tour of capitals to follow up Dublin and prepare for next European Council which we hope will be brought forward.
7. We are indicating willingness to negotiate, but emphasising narrow margin of manoeuvre. There must be matching movement by our partners, e.g. on raising level of receipts, duration of solution.
8. Dublin should not be viewed in purely negative light. Community has never found it easy to take decisions of this importance. Conclusions of Council represent first step towards solution:
 - (a) helpful consensus on removing restraints from 1975 Financial Mechanism;
 - (b) recognised need in principle for long term restructuring;
 - (c) focussed attention on receipts.
9. But little time. Therefore pressing our partners for an early solution.
10. Next formal step is the Commission paper on receipts (due end January or early February). We see three possible approaches to receipts problem:
 - (a) a mechanism bringing up our level of receipts to e.g. proportion of Community average;
 - (b) adjustment of existing policies to give higher level of spending in UK;
 - (c) new or extended policies, e.g. in areas suggested in Commission Paper for Dublin Summit (coal, transport etc) or for Northern Ireland.

11. No set views on which would be best: could be a mix of all three. But must make a substantial contribution to solving the problem and be lasting. Our view is that mechanism would be simplest, cheapest/^{and}would meet our problem best, but willing to look at range of possible solutions.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Commission's Economy Package [if raised]

12. We strongly support the underlying objectives of the Commission CAP economy package. The proposed saving of 1 billion EUA would be a useful first step in bringing CAP expenditure under control. But some of the individual measures seem likely to be discriminatory and unhelpful to British farming industry. Need for further discussion on details.

1980/81 Price-Fixing [if raised]

13. Commission have yet to table their proposals. Essential that economy measures should be underpinned by a rigorous policy on prices of products in surplus. We can see no justification for price rises for such products.

Sheepmeat [if raised]

14. Linkage between sheepmeat regime and solution of our budget problem makes no sense. The French must comply with the Court judgement. As everyone, except the French (and to a lesser degree the Irish), agrees an intervention type regime is not appropriate. We are prepared to consider economical premium system which meets our requirements as the major Community producer and consumer. Any arrangements must ensure adequate access for New Zealand, and maintain the Community's GATT obligations.

/RELATIONS

RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND WESTMINSTER

15. The Government want good relations between the two institutions. But it is for the House and you yourselves to agree what form these relations should take.

16. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is taking soundings of all parties in the House which will in due course probably debate the subject.

ACCOMMODATION FOR UK MEPs

17. The Government have said they will help provide accommodation for UK MEPs and their secretariats at the Parliament's expense. I understand that you will in due course be moving into shared accommodation with the London Office of the European Parliament. Meanwhile, I hope you will remain in touch with Geoffrey Finsberg in order to ensure that we may help where we can.

BRIEFING FOR UK MEPs

18. Government continue to believe it is important for UK MEPs to be properly briefed on implications for HMG of subjects under discussion within the Community. Briefing arrangements have been agreed; hope they will work properly. If not, grateful if you would let Lord Privy Seal know of any suggestions you may have for improving them.

EEC/RHODESIA

19. Of great importance that an EEC trade regime for Rhodesia should be agreed and in place as soon as possible. Understand European Parliament will have to approve the agricultural aspects of whatever regime is agreed by the Council. Grateful for your help in ensuring that this process is completed as soon as possible.



POLITICAL CO-OPERATION: AFGHANISTAN [if raised]

20. Most Governments of the Nine have made strong statements condemning the Soviet action. The UK urged that there should also be a joint statement but others (notably the French) did not agree. We continue to work for a strong collective position.

/BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

1980 BUDGET

1. The Commission have indicated to us informally that they accept that it is for them to produce a new preliminary draft budget (i.e. that the rejection of the 1980 draft budget requires that the procedure be repeated in full). However they do not intend to start work on the preliminary draft until they are satisfied that there is adequate common ground between the Council and the Parliament to obviate the risk of a further rejection. Therefore unlikely that even initial stages of budget procedure will be completed by February/March.
2. Rejection of the 1980 draft budget has opened up tactical opportunities in relation to our strategy on getting a budget settlement and to our policy on the CAP. Officials are studying the implications and will shortly report to Ministers.

BUDGET/CONVERGENCE

3. The Commission are still working on their paper on Supplementary Community measures within the UK: its precise shape is uncertain. One possibility is that it will be along the same lines as the final Commission proposals for the November European Council, i.e. they would cover a range of general possibilities but without pre-judging the possible financial return to the UK. The Commission are to decide on their general lines of approach on 9 January, and it is unlikely that the final paper will be available before the end of January. There will be a Foreign Affairs Council 4/5 February and a Finance Council 11 February which are likely to take up the initial discussion.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

4. The Commission package of economy measures (milk levies, cuts in sugar quotas, reduction in support for beef, rye, starch and fruit and vegetables) was formally presented to the Agriculture Council on 10/11 December. There was no more than a brief tour de table and further preparatory work was commissioned. But it was clear that many countries had reservations.
5. Both the Agriculture Council and the Finance Council (on 17 December) have agreed that the latter should examine the budgetary consequences of the economy package and the Finance Council decided that it could only do this effectively in the light of the Commission's price-fixing proposals.
6. The latter are expected to be submitted towards the end of January. The Commission may well recommend increases even for products in surplus. This is unacceptable since it would undermine the economy measures and provide no incentive for farmers to cut back production. It would also be likely further to provoke the European Parliament, which has already shown its determination to cut CAP costs by rejecting the 1980 draft budget.

/Sheepmeat

Sheepmeat

7. The Presidency Conclusions to the Dublin Summit referred to the need to reach a rapid Community solution to the problem of the organisation of a market in sheepmeat. Ministers are to consider soon how we should respond to attempts to establish a link between sheepmeat and our budgetary contribution. In the meantime, we continue to insist that the issue be treated on its merits. There has been little progress in negotiations on the internal regime. It was not discussed substantively at the Agriculture Council on 10/11 December. The French are still maintaining the need for an intervention-type regime.

8. On voluntary restraint agreements with third country suppliers, the Agriculture Council on 10/11 December adopted a Commission negotiating mandate which is generally satisfactory to our interests and those of New Zealand, though the New Zealanders will undoubtedly wish to negotiate hard on certain points. The French have abandoned their insistence on unbinding of the GATT tariff.

9. The French have still not complied with the 25 September judgement of the European Court. But they have, according to Commissioner Gundelach, acknowledged for the first time and unconditionally that the judgement of the Court must be implemented in full. Commissioner Gundelach told Mr Walker on 20 December that he had obtained permission to take the French to Court again without further reference to the Commission, but was holding his hand over the Christmas holidays (the Court is in recess between 13 December and 7 January). He will discuss the subject with Mr Walker on 10 January.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND WESTMINSTER

10. Until direct elections in June 1979 all MEPs were nominated from national parliaments. This assured good relations between the European Parliament and respective national Parliaments.

11. Now, however, all UK MEPs, except the nine with a dual mandate, have no privileged access to Westminster. Ministers agreed that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should take soundings with MPs about privileged access to Westminster facilities for MEPs and the establishment of a Joint Select Committee on the constitutional and procedural aspects of their relationship to members of the Westminster Parliament. These soundings are still in progress. There has been some resistance, particularly from Labour members, to the idea of privileged access to Westminster.

ACCOMMODATION FOR UK MEPs

12. Until direct elections, UK MEPs had the use of offices in St Stephens. But the Government (and House Services Committee) have decided that, given that there are now only nine dual mandate members, the responsibility for finding suitable accommodation should lie with the European Parliament. We understand they plan eventually to share premises with the London office of the Parliament but so far none has been found.

/13.

13. Meanwhile the MEPs have been allowed to stay in their old offices in St Stephens. They have recently however been asked to move to make room for the new Parliamentary Select Committees. They have been offered instead alternative accommodation in the rear of St Stephens. Mr Jim Spicer, one of the dual mandate members, is in touch with Mr Finsberg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment.

BRIEFING FOR UK MEPs

14. On 13 December OD(E) agreed on the arrangements for briefing and handling correspondence with them. Guidance was issued to departments by the Cabinet Office.

15. The main points of the guidance are:

(i) where there is a Community locus MEPs' letters should be answered by a Minister in the same way as MPs' letters;

(ii) factual written briefing will be provided by Departments on subjects under discussion, generally at the request of the UK MEPs;

(iii) oral briefing may also be given to MEPs to go into more detail on the Government's policy; generally speaking it will be given by Ministers but, with specific Ministerial authorisation, may also be given by officials.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

7 January 1979

CONFIDENTIAL



European
Policy

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. VILE

MINISTERIAL LIAISON WITH MEPs

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to her of 3 January on this subject. She agrees that it would be helpful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary or, more usually, the Lord Privy Seal, could participate in any talks she has in future with Mr. Scott Hopkins. She also agrees that a brief should be prepared for such meetings in future.

The Prime Minister does not, however, intend to invite departmental Ministers to these meetings. She considers that the presence of a Foreign Office Minister and the production of a brief should suffice.

We here will ensure that either Lord Carrington or Sir Ian Gilmour are in future invited to meetings with Mr. Scott Hopkins. The Prime Minister will be meeting with members of the European Democratic Group tomorrow: a brief has been requested.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

7 January 1980

TCA



Prime Minister

1

Ref: A01014

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Apce A or B? I am already speaking on the basis of C (e.g. for your meeting with the European Democratic Group on Tuesday.

Ministerial Liaison with MEPs

1 hour 4/1

see Euro Pol (Budget) Pt 4.

I see from the record that the question of liaison with United Kingdom MEPs arose at your meeting on 21st December on the Community Budget. I understand that you were critical of the advice you received from OD(E)(79) 20th Meeting about the possibility of the European Parliament rejecting the 1980 Budget shortly after you had seen Mr. Scott Hopkins (Mr. Alexander's letter of 7th December to Mr. Lever refers). There was a subsequent discussion about the briefing of MEPs in OD(E) (OD(E)(79) 21st Meeting) which laid down guidance for individual Ministers and charged the Cabinet Office to draw attention to those issues which might require a collective view. In addition, the Lord Privy Seal has now offered to meet members of the European Democratic Group before each plenary session of the Parliament.

2. How can these arrangements be tightened up to ensure that the Government is speaking with one voice? For routine matters, the procedure approved by OD(E) will probably suffice. But where there are major tactical questions on which Mr. Scott Hopkins is likely to consult you, then you may feel that it would be desirable for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary or the Lord Privy Seal to participate in your talks with him. It could also be advantageous to invite the appropriate departmental Ministers (e.g. the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the budget) when it is clear in advance that particular departmental interests are involved. In any event, you may think it helpful to commission a brief from the Cabinet Office or the FCO on the non-Party aspects for future meetings with Mr. Scott Hopkins.

A

B

C

1 I need to know the issues before OD(E) is advised.
2 We can't have several cab. ministers present every time we meet. We can consult the cabinet but the rest will have to be left to the CPS and me.

Robert Armstrong

3rd January 1980

3 Don't understand point C - is there anything we don't know?



KURO P02

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

19 December 1979

*Lg
-
Rund*

It has occurred to me that members of the European Democratic Group might find it useful to have more or less regular meetings with me here in the FCO before each session of the European Parliament to discuss any issues of concern to you and to give me a chance of explaining government policy. I think the best way might be for me to be as it were 'at home' to any members of your group who wanted to come along on a day to suit them before each plenary session of the parliament. If this idea appeals to the group, perhaps you would let me know which day of the week and what time of day members of the group are likely to find most convenient. I suggest we allow an hour.

James Scott-Hopkins Esq MEP
European Democratic Group
St Stephens House
Victoria Embankment
London SW1

bcc:PS
PS/PUS
Lord Bridges
Mr Hannay
Mr Spreckley
Mr FitzHerbert
Mr Franklin,
Cabinet Office
~~PS/No 10~~
PS/Chancellor of
the Exchequer
PS/Minister of
Agriculture
PS/S of S for
Energy



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

CC: D ELLIOTT
M TOWNLEY
S BAMPFYLDE
N SANDERS
MRS BLACKBURN
D FAULKNER

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

2
PRIME MINISTER

22 October 1979

You mentioned this
at Cabinet today

MS

Dear Peter.

[Handwritten signature]
✓ 3

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK PARLIAMENT AND THE DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

I wrote to you on 17 August about how we might handle the discussion of relations between members of the Westminster Parliament and the United Kingdom members of the European Parliament.

In the light of the replies received (including the Lord Privy Seal's letter of 24 August), I now intend to start the soundings with MPs about privileged access to Westminster facilities for MEPs and the establishment of a Joint Select Committee on the constitutional and procedural aspects of their relationship to members of the Westminster Parliament. The Lord President of the Council has said (in his letter to me of 31 August) that he will wish at the same time to take soundings in the House of Lords. Subject to the outcome of these contacts, we can then agree a statement which I will make to the House shortly after the recess to get formal proceedings under way.

I would expect the Services and Offices Committees, whether singly or combined, to make their recommendations to the House on possible privileged access to facilities in Westminster within a month. These could then be debated in late November or early December, which I understand would fit in with the Chief Whip's views on timing. I note the Chancellor of the Exchequer's preference (his letter to me of 30 August) for allowing MEPs privileged access to existing Westminster facilities rather than creating new joint facilities where MPs and MEPs might meet.

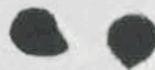
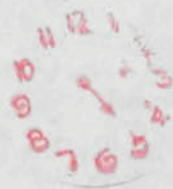
I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of my letter of 17 August.

[Handwritten signature]

The Rt Hon Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC
Secretary of State
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

W1

2





V-ns
cc Mr Cumming-Bruce ✓

FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
HOUSE OF LORDS

Enveloped.

The Rt Hon Norman St John Stevas MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Lancaster Place
Strand
LONDON WC2E 7ED

31 August 1979

Dear Norman,

I have seen a copy of your letter of 17 August to the Foreign Secretary.

So far as the House of Lords is concerned, I am content with what you propose. I should be grateful if you would let me know when you propose to begin consultations in the Commons as I shall also need to consult the usual channels in the Lords.

I am sending copies of this letter to recipients of yours.

Yours ever
Christopher

SOAMES

25 OCT 1979



cc: PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Minister of State (C)
PS/Minister of State (L)
Sir Douglas Wass
Sir Kenneth Couzens o.r.



Mr. Jordan-Moss
Mrs. Hedley-Miller o.r.
Mr. Ashford
Mr. Thomson
Mr. R. Jones
Mr. Ridley

VMS

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

20 August 1979

Dear Norman

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT
AND THE DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

You wrote to Peter Carrington on 17th August with recommendations for implementing our Manifesto commitment to discuss the relationship between the Westminster and European Parliaments "with all parties".

Your procedural proposals strike me as entirely sensible and I am content for you to make a statement to the House on the lines you suggest early in the next session - subject of course to the outcome of the informal soundings you will be taking beforehand.

I agree also that there is little point in OD(E) discussing the issues of substance until we have a better idea of what MPs and their counterparts in the European Parliament will want. Meanwhile I find the preliminary conclusions set out in the note by officials attached to your letter broadly acceptable.

The only issue on which I would like to comment at this stage is that of joint facilities. I accept that arrangements which would enable the members of both institutions to mingle on terms of "easy informality" are highly desirable and a necessary part of establishing a good working relationship between the two bodies. But you will not be surprised to hear that I greatly prefer the first option mentioned in the note (privileged access for MEPs to existing Westminster facilities) to the second (new joint facilities), which carries with it the implication of additional UK public expenditure. Now is not the time for Parliament to splash out unnecessarily on new accommodation, even in cases like the present, where, in other circumstances, it might appear desirable. As the note by

The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John-Stevas, MP



officials observes, this is a matter for Parliament itself to decide, but I hope that, if a suitable opportunity arises, you will try tactfully to steer opinion in the Committee in the direction of the cheaper alternative.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Howe".

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

24 OCT 1979

