



Confidential Filing

European Democratic Group (EDG)  
Links with other parties in the  
European Parliament

EUROPEAN  
POLICY

JUNE 1987

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>26.6.84</del>							
<del>10.7.84</del>							
<del>13.7.84</del>							
<del>27.7.84</del>							
<del>7.2.85</del>							
<del>15.5.85</del>							
<del>16.6.85</del>							
<del>6.11.86</del>							
<del>28.11.86</del>							
6.6.85							

PREM 19/1488

## Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Document

The following document, which was enclosed on this file, has 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.

Reference: CC(84) 25<sup>th</sup> Conclusions, Minute 2

Date: 5 July 1984

Signed P Wayland Date 28 January 2014

**PREM Records Team**



*MB*

10 DOWNING STREET

6th June, 1985

The Prime Minister has now replied to the letter from Sir Henry Plumb (copy attached).

We must now arrange for Senor Fraga to see the Prime Minister in London which she has agreed with the Foreign Secretary. This needs to be done on the Party network as they will be meeting as Leaders of their respective political parties.

Could I ask you and Central Office to approach Senor Fraga in order to discuss possible dates. As far as the Prime Minister's diary is concerned Caroline Ryder will have to be consulted.

It is also important that the Foreign Secretary is kept fully in the picture at every stage.

I am therefore copying this letter to Charles Powell (No. 10), Caroline Ryder (No. 10), Adam Fergusson (FCO), John Houston (FCO), Colin Budd (FCO) and Scott Hamilton (Central Office).

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

The Chairman of the Party



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6th June, 1985

*Dear Henry,*

Thank you so much for your letter of 15th May about the signing of an agreement in principle between the European Democratic Group and the Alianza Popular. It was good of you to keep me informed and I would be delighted in due course to be the guest of the newly enlarged group.

I know that you were due to meet Senor Fraga in Venice earlier this week and I think you will have received a message before that meeting, letting you know that I would very much like to meet Senor Fraga in London. Arrangements are now in hand to find a mutually convenient date.

*Yours ever*

*Rogers*

Sir Henry Plumb DL MEP

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB  
Det konservative folkeparti, DK  
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Chairman

Sir Henry Plumb, DL, MEP  
LONDON

2 Queen Anne's Gate  
London, SW1H 9AA  
Tel. (01)222 1720  
(01)222 1729  
Telex 917650 EDGLDN

15th May, 1985

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

*Dear Prime Minister,*

The signing in Madrid earlier this week of an agreement in principle between ourselves and the Alianza Popular to form a common Group in the European Parliament when Spain enters the European Community seemed to me an appropriate moment to write to you about this forthcoming enlargement of the European Democratic Group, and more generally the Group's prospects for the future.

As you know, over the past 2 years there have been many exchanges of correspondence and visits between ourselves and the Alianza Popular. It was not until the end of last year, however, that Fraga specifically told us that he would like his colleagues to enter the European Democratic Group when Spanish Members joined the European Parliament: Fraga will not himself be a Member of the Parliament.

Since the Alianza Popular is both a Member of the International Democrat Union and sits with us in the Assembly of the Council of Europe, it was not entirely surprising that Fraga should regard us as his natural associates at Strasbourg. The past 6 months have been a time of rapid consolidation in our dealings with Fraga: we have, of course, kept in regular touch with John Gummer and Geoffrey Howe on the question. The culmination of this process was reached earlier this week in Madrid.

.../...

2 COPIES P1

R18/5

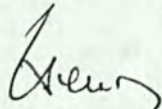
*P. help on  
our files  
(top copy gone to  
steph shelburne)  
CDP.*

Quite apart from the obvious philosophical similarities between ourselves and the Alianza Popular, I think it particularly appropriate that the European Democratic Group should be augmenting its numbers at this time. The Fontainebleau settlement has lanced the boil of the British budgetary problem, and the constructive British contribution in such fora as the Dooce Committee and the Committee on People's Europe have served merely to emphasise that the United Kingdom is now eager to play as full a part in the Community's development as any of our partners. Over the past 6 years, the fact that the British Conservatives sat in what was largely a Group of a single nationality has paradoxically diminished our influence in the Parliament: we have inevitably spent too much time talking to ourselves and not enough convincing our continental colleagues. The presence of Spaniards in our Group will significantly better our position. The balance of the Parliament may tilt a little to the left with the arrival of Spanish Socialist MEPs next year, but this will merely be an incentive for the Parties of the Centre and responsible Right to work even more closely together: it is perhaps worth pointing out that the Christian Democrats and the Gaullists are accepting with good grace our success in snaring the Alianza Popular.

The situation in Spain is naturally an evolving one. The Alianza Popular will not be the same in 5 years time as it is now; exposure to the European Community must surely have a beneficial effect on its policies and leadership. We British Conservatives in the European Parliament hope very much to be able to play some role in guiding the Alianza Popular's development: the strengthening of democratic practice in Spain was, after all, the most powerful single argument for Spanish accession.

I attach a copy of the English text of the agreement I signed with Fraga earlier this week. I hope very much that you will, in due course, do the newly enlarged Group the honour of being our guest, as you have so kindly been on a number of occasions over the past few years.

Yours ever,

  
HENRY PLUMB

Enc. RP. I hope you will be able to receive Fraga when he comes over in June.

4.

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP AND THE ALIANZA POPULAR

1. It is agreed in principle, following a series of meetings between the respective leaderships, the Alianza Popular will join with the three existing constituent parties of the European Democratic Group (British Conservative Party, Danish Conservative Party and Ulster Unionist Party) in forming an expanded Group within the European Parliament on Spain's entry into the European Community.
2. Both the existing European Democratic Group and the Alianza Popular look forward to the Alianza Popular playing a full part in the work of the Group, with its MEPs assuming responsibilities within the Group and, on the Group's behalf, within all the organs of Parliament, such as the Bureau of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and Delegations.
3. In the interim period, (May-December 1985), there will be an accelerated programme of mutual preparation for the expansion of the Group within the Enlarged Community.

This will include:

1. The attendance of Alianza Popular Members at all Group Meetings.
  2. Visits to Spain of existing European Democratic Group Members for discussions of matters of mutual interest with the Alianza Popular.
  3. The attendance of an Alianza Popular representative at meetings of the European Democratic Group Bureau as an honorary Member.
  4. The mutual preparation of secretariat staff for the tasks related to expansion.
4. The Group will hold a week-long Conference in Madrid, 4 to 8 November, to finalise policy priorities within the expanded Group.

Henry Pennock

Manuel Fraga Iribari

David Miller

James Douglas

Alan White

Fulford

Manly

Madrid  
13-may-1985

Davis

M. James de Brion

Top Copy: Political Office. *JE*

PLUMB



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 February 1985

S Sherbourne Esq  
Political Secretary to PM  
No 10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Dear Stephen,

EDG AND ALIANZA POPULAR

I have talked to your office several times about the prospect of getting a copy of the letter from Michael Allison to Henry Plumb on the above subject. So far as I can see, however, there has still been no result. We do not have a copy of the last and definitive letter. It would be most helpful to have a copy of this so that we know what steer has been given to the EDG. Could you possibly send me a copy of this? Alternatively, if there is any difficulty about obtaining it, could you let me know so that I can follow-up as appropriate.

✓  
Copy of 17/12  
Sent to John  
Houston 6/2

Yours  
*J Houston*

J Houston

P.S. Sorry to keep on pestering you, but we do need to know!  
*JH*



Top Copy: Political Office

Plumb

(F)

24th December, 1984

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 19th December to Mr. Alison which arrived just as he was leaving for his Christmas holiday.

I will of course put it before him when he returns to the office.

Amanda Colvin  
Political Office

Sir Henry Plumb DL MEP

Top Copy: Political Office

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB  
● Det konservative folkeparti, DK  
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP  
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LONDON

2 Queen Anne's Gate  
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(01)222 1729  
Telex 917650 EDGLDN

19th December, 1984

The Rt. Hon. Michael Alison, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London S.W.1.

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 17th December. I quite understand the reasoning which has led you to conclude that the Prime Minister should not see Señor Fraga until after the restrictions upon the inhabitants of Gibraltar have been lifted.

Gibraltar is indeed the issue on which there is a risk of disharmony between the Alianza Popular and ourselves and I very much hope that the excellent progress which Geoffrey Howe has been making will be sustained, thus removing the potential bone of contention. If all goes well in February with the agreed lifting of restrictions and the Prime Minister then feels it opportune to meet Señor Fraga, I would look on such a meeting as an important further step on the path of cooperation between British Conservatives and the Alianza, reflecting the relationship which already exists within the Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Constitutionally, of course, we in the Group cannot take a formal decision on the Alianza's joining us until after Spain has come into the Community, but in the meantime we will move forward cautiously in our dealings with the Alianza, on the working assumption that they will in fact apply to join us after Spanish accession. The careful development of informal links at this stage is essential if we are to keep open the option of broadening our membership in this way.

Perhaps we could be in touch again about this matter in the latter half of February; it might be useful if I could have the opportunity of putting in a brief to the Prime Minister on EDG-Alianza relations before any meeting with Señor Fraga.

Yours ever,

Henry

HENRY PLUMB



10 DOWNING STREET

IN CONFIDENCE

17th December 1984

Dear Henry,

You will remember that when you came to see the Prime Minister on 7th December, one of the topics you touched on briefly was the way in which links between the EDG and the Alianza Popular might develop. A meeting at some point between the Prime Minister and Senor Fraga is clearly profoundly relevant to all this.

The view here is that the Prime Minister should not be in too much of a hurry to meet Senor Fraga. The essential point is that the restrictions on Gibraltar, following our recent Agreement with Spain, should first have been lifted as part of the implication of that Agreement. This is not likely to happen until mid-or late February. It is therefore sometime after that date that we should be considering a meeting with Senor Fraga and the Prime Minister; and at that time we will have to weigh quite carefully the sensitivities of such a meeting in the light of the state of relations between the United Kingdom and Senor Gonzales' Government in Spain.

Yours ever  
Michael

MICHAEL ALISON

Sir Henry Plumb DL MEP

MR ALISON

Thank you: I attach a letter which - if you approve - I'll send to Sir A. Plumb. We could simply copy it to G. Howe. MA

EDG AND ALIANZA POPULAR

14/12

This subject seems to stray indiscriminately between us!

The Prime Minister has seen Geoffrey Howe's minute of 12 December. Her views as conveyed partly orally partly in writing (attached) are.

(i) she agrees not to see Fraga at least until after the restrictions on Gibraltar have been lifted, which should be mid-February. She does not regard whether or not she sees Gonzalez before Fraga as relevant.

(ii) she does not see any need to restrict the developing contacts between the EDG and the Alianza Popular

Will you write to Henry Plumb on her behalf? And shall I reply to Geoffrey Howe.

e.d.p.

13 December, 1984

(1)



10 DOWNING STREET  
Prime Minister

This recommends:

(i) that you should NOT see Fraga at least until after the restrictions on Gibraltar have been lifted and you have met Gonzalez <sup>officially</sup>;

(ii) that the question of a possible merger ~~with~~ between the EDG and the Alianza Popular be deferred until the second half of next year and no irreversible commitments given in the meantime.

Agree?

C.D.P

No need to restrict ourselves in any way



PM/84/186

PRIME MINISTER

Sr Fraga

1. I have seen the copy of Stephen Sherbourne's letter of 9 November to Scott Hamilton, reporting your views about the possibility of Sr Fraga calling on you at some stage.

2. ~~I share your view that it would be best to move in stages,~~ and that in the context of a closer relationship between the Alianza Popular and the EDG, there are advantages in Sr Fraga calling first on the Chairman of the Party. I believe that a call by Sr Fraga on you should be delayed for as long as possible and certainly until well after the Gibraltar agreement has been implemented. When a call takes place, I think he should be seen in his capacity as party leader, with the arrangements being handled on the Party net.

3. Although you received Sr Gonzales when he was leader of the opposition in March 1981, this closely followed the 23 February coup attempt in Spain, when the Spanish Congress was held at gunpoint by Colonel Tejero. It provided an early opportunity for us to reinforce HMG's support for the democratic process in Spain. Fraga would be calling in very different circumstances, and I see no equivalent bilateral advantage in receiving him soon. Alianza Popular takes a harder, more nationalistic, line over Gibraltar than the present Spanish Government. Sr Fraga is likely to make considerable political capital out of a meeting with you, to the irritation of Sr Gonzales, who is known to appreciate that the Gibraltar dispute makes it difficult for a Prime Ministerial visit. Any call by Fraga would be widely reported in Spain, particularly as the London correspondent of 'El Pais' (the most widely read serious newspaper) is a close associate of his and a former Vice-President of the Alianza Popular with responsibility for media affairs.

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4. The degree of offence which might be taken by Sr Fraga if you do not see him at an early stage will much depend on how clear a commitment has already been made to him about such a meeting. But it is clear that he stands to boost his own domestic political image by meeting you, and accordingly is unlikely to allow any irritation to show. Thus, if at all possible, you should aim to meet Sr Gonzalez first. This would be possible once the restrictions on Gibraltar are lifted, which we expect to occur by mid-February, and would be most welcome to the Spanish Government. But if a meeting with Sr Gonzalez seems too distant a prospect, I would recommend that you should aim to see Sr Fraga in the context of a party meeting, perhaps under EDU auspices.

5. Notwithstanding the above, I accept Henry Plumb's view that the Alianza Popular could be a useful ally for the EDG in the European Parliament, and that a strengthening of the links with them is desirable. The Alianza Popular provide the major opposition to the Socialist Party in Spain and are likely to have a significant number of MEPs. But at this stage it does not seem necessary to make any irreversible commitments to a merger. We could review the situation again in the second half of next year after implementation of the Gibraltar agreement, and when arrangements on Accession are clearer.

6. I am copying this minute to John Selwyn Gummer.

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

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

12 December 1984

CONFIDENTIAL



Top copy: Political Office

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB  
Det konservative folkeparti, DK  
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP  
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LONDON

2 Queen Anne's Gate  
London, SW1H 9AA  
Tel. (01)222 1720  
(01)222 1729  
Telex 917650 EDGLDN

MA  
This must be  
for you  
DP  
- 19/12

7th December, 1984

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

Dear Prime Minister,

This is just a brief note to thank you for our meeting this morning. I was grateful to have the opportunity of discussing the current topics which concern the European Parliament and the European Democratic Group. I shall of course pass on to my colleagues the general outline of our discussion and I know they will be encouraged by the sympathetic interest you take in our affairs.

There is one question we discussed on which I should like to make some further observations. I understand from our conversation that you still have reservations about the forming of a joint group in the European Parliament with Senor Fraga's Alianza Popular. As I mentioned to you, we have gone some way down the road towards welcoming Senor Fraga as a possible ally in the European Parliament: we have not finally committed ourselves, but it is clear that Senor Fraga regards us as his most natural associates in the European Parliament.

I believe you intend to discuss the Alianza Popular and the relationship of the Conservative Party to it with Geoffrey Howe. Although the European Democratic Group is not going to be called upon to make a final decision in the matter immediately, our exchanges with the Alianza Popular continue. I have recently been to Spain and Senor Fraga has come to London, where I met him. If the scale or frequency of these contacts were to be reduced, it would obviously act as a discouraging signal to Senor Fraga, and could lead to his seeking other allies within the Parliament. I should therefore be grateful for the earliest possible indication of the outcome of your consultation with Geoffrey Howe concerning Fraga. I remain of the view that if we intend to broaden the face of the European Democratic Group, the Alianza Popular is the only significant ally on offer.

I hope we may, in any case, have an opportunity to discuss this matter further in due course.

I look forward to receiving you as the Group's guest in February.

Yours ever,  
Henry.

HENRY PLUMB



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

27 July, 1984.

Contacts between the European Democratic Group  
and the Christian Democrats

I enclose a copy of a reply from Chancellor Kohl to the Prime Minister's letter on this subject in which he names Herr Klepsch as his representative for discussions between the EDG and the Christian Democrats. You will no doubt wish to pass on this information to Sir Henry Plumb.

Charles Powell

C.R. Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*ls*

200

Botschaft  
Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

London, 27th July, 1984

Dear Prime Minister

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed sealed letter by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

I am, dear Prime Minister,

Yours sincerely  
J. von Alten  
(Jürgen von Alten)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

ANCHART III ROMERTURM-KI



BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND  
DER BUNDESKANZLER

5300 Bonn, den 23. Juli 1984

**PRIME MINISTER'S**

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No:** T 132<sup>A</sup>/84

cc MASTER  
ops

Ihrer Exzellenz  
Frau Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Premierminister des  
Vereinigten Königreichs von  
Großbritannien und Nordirland

L o n d o n

Sehr verehrte Frau Premierminister,  
liebe Margaret,

für Ihren Brief vom 10. Juli 1984, der mich heute über  
Ihre Botschaft in Bonn erreichte, besten Dank.

Ich bin sehr daran interessiert, daß wir unsere Verabredung  
von Chequers bald realisieren. Als meinen persönlichen Be-  
auftragten möchte ich den Spitzenkandidaten der CDU für die  
Europawahl, Herrn Dr. Egon Klepsch, benennen. Herr Dr. Klepsch  
ist auch als Vertreter der Christlich Demokratischen Abgeordneten  
im Europäischen Parlament Mitglied des Präsidiums der CDU  
Deutschlands.

Ich habe ihn heute gebeten, unmittelbar Kontakt mit  
Sir Henry Plumb aufzunehmen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



hie

ECL

cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 July 1984

EDG LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS IN THE  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

I enclose a copy of the reply from Sir Henry Plumb to the Prime Minister's letter inviting him to act as her representative in discussions with the German Christian Democrats.

Charles Powell

John Houston, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB  
Det konservative folkeparti, DK  
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP  
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(01)222 1729  
Telex 917650 EDGLDN

ccpc

12th July, 1984

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

*Dear Prime Minister,*

*M 13/2*

Thank you very much for your kind letter of 9th July. I am very grateful for the personal interest that you and Dr. Kohl have taken in the European Parliament. I should, of course, be delighted to act as your representative in discussions with the German Christian Democrats in the Parliament and look forward to learning who my German colleague in these discussions will be.

I shall naturally keep you informed of the progress we are making, and am sure that our Conservative collaboration with the Germans will be greatly enhanced by your and the Federal Chancellor's initiative.

*Yours sincerely,  
Henry*

HENRY PLUMB

EUROPEAN POLICY: European Democratic Group: June 84



SUBJECT

FILE

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cc/co

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 July, 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T122184

My dear Chancellor,

You will recall that when you visited me at Chequers on 2 May, we agreed that each of us would ask a personal representative to be responsible for ensuring that collaboration and co-operation between our two Parties generally, and in the European Parliament in particular, was as close as possible. As you will see from the enclosed letter, I have asked Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the British Conservatives, to represent me; I know you shared a platform with him at the CDU's "Peace Conference" in Bonn last November, and it goes without saying that he has my fullest confidence.

As you know, the European Parliament has its next plenary session in late July. Would it be possible to have the name of your representative before then? I assume that you will be asking him to work to similar ground rules to those I have set out for Sir Henry.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl

da



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 July, 1984

*File JA  
a fro (2)  
Chancellor Kohl*

*Dear Henry,*

As you know, the Federal Chancellor, Dr. Kohl, and I discussed at Chequers on 2 May ways in which we could make a personal contribution to further improving co-operation between British Conservatives and German Christian Democrats. Clearly a co-ordinated effort in the European Parliament will be especially necessary after the Socialist gains in the European elections.

Chancellor Kohl and I agreed at Chequers that both of us would nominate a personal representative to discuss ways of giving renewed impetus to co-operation between our two Parties in the European Parliament. I should be very grateful if you would take on this role. I know you have this very much in mind, but I hope that the knowledge that Chancellor Kohl and I are taking a personal interest will help further progress.

I hope very much that you and your German equivalent will take all appropriate steps, whether on a political or official level, to ensure that collaboration between Conservatives and German Christian Democrats is as close as possible in the next five years. I should like to be kept informed when appropriate of the progress you are making. I would, of course, give careful consideration to any proposals you might put to me for more effective co-operation on Community matters between our two Parties, and if necessary seek to raise the matter with Dr. Kohl.

/ I am

I am writing to Chancellor Kohl and shall send him a copy of this letter.

Yours

Raymond

Sir Henry Plumb, D.L., M.E.P.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 July 1984

Mr Charles Powell  
PS/Prime Minister  
10 Downing St

*Dear Charles,*

EDG LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. Your letter of 26 June records the Prime Minister's decision to ask Henry Plumb to act as her personal representative in discussions with the German Christian Democrats. I attach draft letters, approved by Sir Geoffrey Howe, which the Prime Minister may wish to send to Henry Plumb and Dr Kohl confirming the arrangement.

*Yours*

*John*  
J Houston

cc (with enc)  
S Sherbourne Esq



he vsc

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 June 1984

EDG Links with other Parties in the European Parliament

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary minuted the Prime Minister on 22 June on this subject.

In the event, neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary found time for any real discussion of this at Fontainebleau, though the Prime Minister did mention it briefly to Mr. Schluter. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will wish to consider how best to carry the exercise forward.

You will wish to note that it was agreed between the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to nominate Sir Henry Plumb as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for discussions with the German Christian Democrats.

(C.D. POWELL)

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

H



PM/84/105

PRIME MINISTER

Yes. There is no point in doing this if other things go badly. cc PC ①

Prime Minister

I will transfer the speaking notes to cards. You need to decide who will be your personal representative in discussions with Germans. Discuss with Sir G. Howe on the aircraft?

EDG Links with other Parties in the European Parliament

1. We have been concerned for some time that the isolation of the EDG in the European Parliament is unhelpful to the promotion of British interests in the Community. I wrote to you about this on 30 April. You raised with Herr Kohl at your meeting on 2 May our desire for closer relationships between our MEPs and those from his party, which he welcomed. You agreed that this should be followed up after the elections. CDP  
22/6
2. I held a meeting yesterday with John Gummer and Henry Plumb to discuss how best to follow up the elections rapidly with efforts to improve our relationships with other like-minded parties. One of our conclusions was that it was necessary for Government, Party and EDG all to make co-ordinated efforts to push in an agreed direction. We felt that the Fontainebleau Summit might offer a good opportunity for contacts with some of the appropriate leaders both at Prime Ministerial and at Foreign Secretary level.
3. We agreed that the first objective should be to attempt to establish a closer working relationship with the Christian Democrats, who are the mainstream centre-right parties throughout much of Europe. We should also complement this with efforts to sustain a good centre-right majority coalition in the Parliament.
4. With this in mind, I suggest that you raise the issue again with Herr Kohl, and for the first time with M. Werner, Mr Lubbers, and Mr Schluter. I attach speaking notes which I hope are helpful. I would also propose to talk to Andreotti and Tindemans. I will also have an opportunity to talk to Chirac at the EDU leaders meeting in Oslo on 29/30 June, where I will be representing you.



5. Our meeting yesterday also discussed questions of the relationship between the EDG, the Government and the Party, and between MPs and MEPs about which I will be writing to you in due course.

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

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
22 June 1984



SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR SCHLUTER  
AT FONTAINEBLEAU

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. Want to raise a point about the relationship between our parties in the European Parliament. Our MEPs sit in the same group and have an excellent relationship. Very pleased that you improved your vote in the European elections and now have 4 MEPs instead of 2. Our own result not as good as landslide of 1979, but still very good for one year into Westminster Parliament - majority of seats, and clear lead in popular vote over Labour.
  
2. We are interested in trying to extend and improve EDG links with other like-minded parties in the European Parliament, in particular the Christian Democrats. I am sure you will welcome this. I and Geoffrey Howe are raising this with appropriate Christian Democrat leaders here in Fontainebleau, and our MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers. Our objective is first to make it clear that we want our MEPs in the Parliament to be able to play their full part in the multi-party arrangements there and second, to propose that the establishment of closer links between the Christian Democrats and the EDG should be seriously attempted.
  
3. If, as I hope, you welcome this, you may wish to take it up as appropriate in your meetings, in particular with Herr Kohl.





SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETINGS AT FONTAINEBLEAU  
WITH MR LUBBERS AND MR WERNER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. Want to raise a point about the relationship between our parties in the European Parliament. Your MEPs sit as members of the European People's Party, the Christian Democrat group, and ours form the European Democrat Group, together with the Danish Conservatives. Up to now there has been a loose co-operation between centre-right parties, allowing them to make good use of their overall majority on important issues.
2. It is our view that the election of a new Parliament provides an opportunity to take this further. The European Parliament works through grouping of like-minded parties from several countries, rather than national groups on their own. We would like to see the EDG establish closer and more formal links with the Christian Democrat group.
3. I hope you will welcome this, and that your party's MEPs will give it their support.
4. I and Geoffrey Howe will be raising this with other appropriate leaders here, and the MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers.



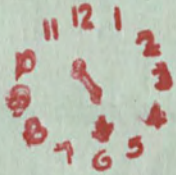
SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH HERR KOHL  
AT FONTAINEBLEAU

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. At our meeting at Chequers I raised with you the question of our MEPs working more closely together. You welcomed this and we agreed that our personal representatives should discuss it after the elections.
2. I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to be my personal representative for these discussions. I hope he can meet rapidly with your nominee to take matters forward in a practical way, as decisions will be taken this week and over the next few weeks by groups in the European Parliament on how they are to organise themselves.
3. Have heard reports that <sup>some</sup> Christian Democrats in EP are thinking of entering a working arrangement with Socialists. Am sure you would not welcome this (I would find it very retrograde step). Hope reports incorrect.
4. We would like to see the EDG establish closer and more formal links with the Christian Democrat Group.
5. Our relationship with your party has long been close and friendly. We share views on many major world issues. Hope that you will welcome this proposal, and that your party's MEPs will work to support it.
6. I and Geoffrey Howe will be talking to other appropriate leaders here about this, and the MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers.

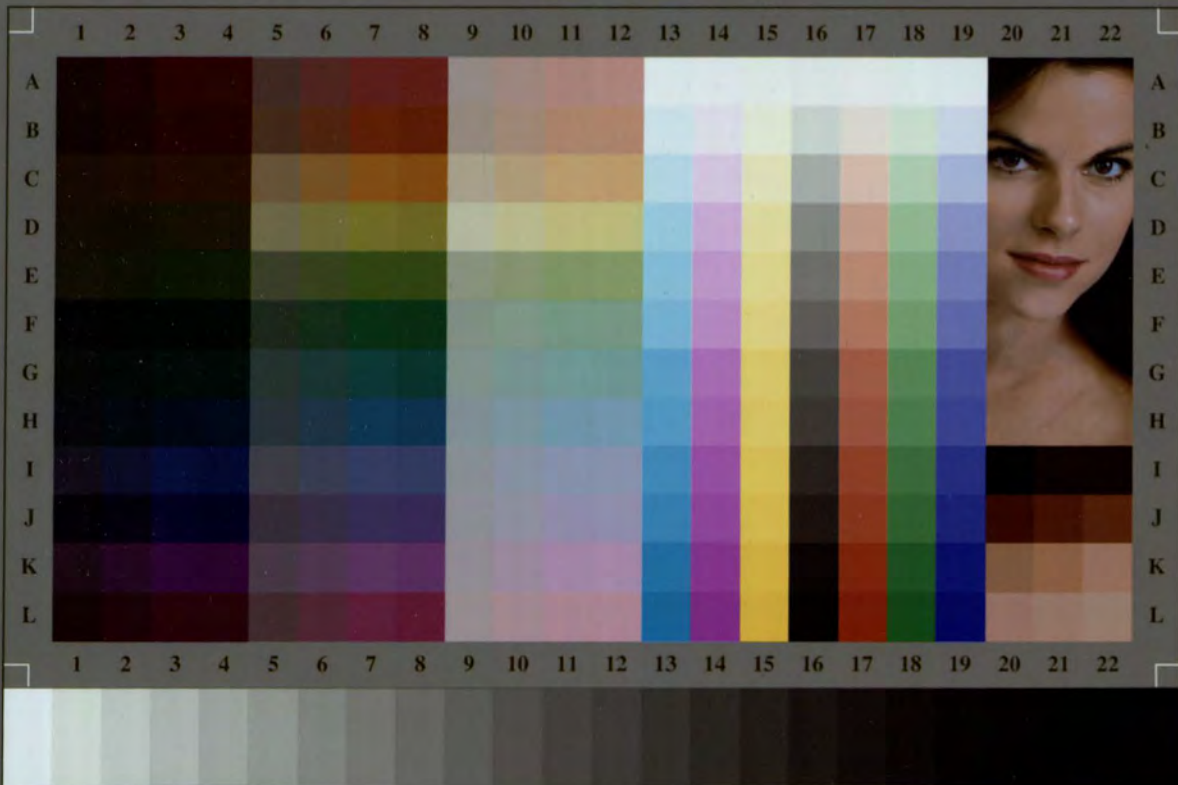


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