MT/JH

Part 1

NEW FILE COVER

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Membership of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe and Western European Union.

EUROPEAN POLICY

Part 1:
April 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
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PART 1 ends:-

Pm to Finsberg 15 3 92

PART 2 begins:-

JSW to FCO 16 4 92

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 November 1992

Dear Stephen,

Letter from Chancellor Vranitzky to the Prime Minister

I enclose a draft letter of reply from the Prime Minister to the Austrian Chancellor's invitation to attend a proposed Council of Europe Summit in October next year.

In May President Mitterrand proposed, in a speech in Strasbourg, that there should be biennial Council of Europe summits (alternating with those of the CSCE). This was linked to French ideas for a Confederation in Europe. It was suggested that the first such meeting should be held in London during our Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe which ends next May. We opposed this, not least on cost grounds, and because there was nothing of substance to discuss.

The Austrians have now taken over the initiative and appear determined to host the summit during their Chairmanship which runs from May to November next year.

The Foreign Secretary believes that there is a surfeit of summitry. The proposed summit is still searching for an agenda. The points put forward by the Austrian Chancellor deserve consideration, but not, he feels, by Heads of Government. Nor is the Austrian Chancellor correct when he asserts in his letter that Foreign Ministers accepted the Austrian offer in September at their meeting in Istanbul. There were dissenting views (ours included) at the Istanbul meeting which were not reflected in the Chairman's written conclusions.

Nevertheless, there is an air of resigned expectation in Strasbourg that the summit will go ahead, with only a very small minority, led by ourselves, still opposed. Our

policy has been to use our time as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers to make contingency plans for the summit in good faith, and ensuring that the agenda has relevant items for discussion. At the same time, we are working for general acceptance that any final decision on the summit should not be taken before Foreign Ministers consider it at their meeting in May 1993.

The dates of 8-9 October, which coincide with the end of the Conservative Party Conference, have been suggested. Clearly the Prime Minister could not attend if those dates were confirmed.

Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

23-17

Draft letter from the Prime Minister to
Chancellor Vranitzky

Thank you for your letter of earlier this month, about Austria's generous offer to host a Council of Europe Summit meeting next year.

I have read your letter with great interest. The Foreign Office Minister, Tristan Garel-Jones, has told Council of Europe Ministers that the UK agrees with many of the points you make. I suggest that we should ask Foreign Ministers to take a final decision on the proposed summit at their meeting in May next year, in the light of preparatory work accomplished by then. In the meantime, as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, we will take forward in good faith the planning for the summit.

(45)

mr. Hayes Campbell 5/11
mr Ashworth FCO IR 5/11
Allen p.a. WED
5/11

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 November 1992

WRR 011/25

Dear Stephen,

G2

Letter from Chancellor Vranitzky to the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister might wish to be aware of the attached letter which we have just received from Chancellor Vranitzky about a proposed Council of Europe summit meeting.

The subject will be discussed in Strasbourg on 5 November at a Ministerial meeting. Contrary to Chancellor Vranitzky's letter, no final decision on the principle or the dates of a Summit has been taken. We will submit a reply shortly taking into account the results of the meeting.

Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq CMG LVO
10 Downing Street

Republic of Austria
THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR

A

Vienna,

Dear Prime Minister,

In his declaration before the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly the President of the French Republic, Francois Mitterrand, had suggested on May 4th to hold a Council of Europe summit conference i.e. a meeting of the Heads of States and Governments of all Council of Europe member countries. As Austria will hold the chair of the Council of Europe in the period between May 1993 and November 1993, and thus would become the host for such a conference, we have given very careful consideration to this suggestion and have decided on a positive response. At their extraordinary meeting in Istanbul on September 11th, the foreign ministers of the Member States have decided to accept the Austrian offer to host the summit. Accordingly, the Council of Europe summit will take place in Vienna on October 8th/9th of 1993. I would ask you to kindly mark the date on your agenda. A more formal invitation will be sent at a later date.

In taking up the initiative of President Mitterrand we were prompted by the following motives:

a) There certainly exists a multitude of European organizations with overlapping tasks and membership; by far the most important one being the European Community.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
John MAJOR, MP
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

London

I am convinced that the European Community will accept new member countries and at the same time will continue to deepen its cooperation. Nonetheless, not all European nations will be in a position to become members in the near future. This is especially true for the young democracies of East/Central Europe. But in these nations too, a sense of European identity and European destiny has to be strengthened. This can be done by the Council of Europe. It is the natural European forum of genuine democracies and thus the place where these democracies can participate, as of yet, in the process of European cooperation as full and equal members.

b) The functions and tasks of the Council of Europe have been affected by the increasing scope of the activities of the European Community as well as by the increasing cooperation and the partial institutionalisation of the CSCE and by some activities of the Economic Commission for Europe and the OECD. It thus would seem worthwhile to take stock and to make a conscious effort to assign to the Council of Europe a clearly defined place in this "new European architecture".

c) We are witnessing a rapid expansion of memberships to the Council of Europe. Four formerly communist countries have acceded. Other applications are pending and, beyond that, the Council of Europe has also expanded cooperation with those democracies of East/Central Europe that have not yet become full members.

Evidently, this expansion must ultimately entail a certain change in the organizational set-up and in the procedures of the Council of Europe. Some reforms seem inevitable.

This particularly concerns necessary reforms of procedures in the realm of human rights. Already now the system is overburdened. The situation would further deteriorate with the accession of new member states.

I believe that the summit could and should also give certain political impulses to the Council of Europe. It could enhance the political weight of the organization. It could for instance point to the necessity of finding legal safeguards for the rights of ethnical groups and minorities. It could express itself on the problem of east/west migration. It could - and in this I am rather tentative - also assign a few new selected tasks to the Council of Europe, possibly for instance, in the field of environment. A multitude of European organizations are already engaged in this task. I do, however, believe that some issues are not yet fully covered by the existing intra-European cooperation; and I therefore could imagine that the Council of Europe assumes a certain function in this field.

It results from the above that our meeting in October of 1993 has to be well prepared. Taking my cue from other summits, I therefore propose that you designate one of your personal aides to be responsible for participating in these preparations. These personal aides ("sherpas") should be joined by our ambassadors in Strasbourg and their first meeting should occur better sooner than later. The exact date and venue of this first meeting will be communicated to you via diplomatic channels within the next weeks.

With my best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Franz Vranitzky

Franz Vranitzky
Federal Chancellor

CF PDS

KK

ALPO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 March 1992

Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March.

I fully take your point about the importance of securing the United Kingdom's position when it comes to chairmanships and other positions within the council of Europe/WEU for the 1992-93 Session. As you may be aware, things have moved on since we announced on Wednesday that the State Opening would be on 6 May. Since that makes it impossible to announce by means of a Written Answer in the new Parliament the United Kingdom Delegation to be appointed after the General Election, a Question is being answered on Monday recording that the make up of the new Delegation will be announced at the end of April and reported to Parliament as soon as practicable thereafter. The House authorities have confirmed that this provides adequate cover for members of the new United Kingdom Delegation to attend the Session starting on 4 May and present their credentials in the usual way.

I am glad to be able to reassure you that your concerns have already been taken on board in this way.

A copy of this letter goes to John MacGregor.

Yours ever,

John

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

SR

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. John Major M.P.
10 Downing Street
London SW1.

9th March 1992

Dear John

I am sorry to have to trouble you at this busy time but you are the only person who can decide this issue.

Under the rules of the C of E, credentials of members for each country have to be presented annually to the May meeting - in this case before 4th May. It is quite clear from all past experience that a new delegation formed after a General Election would not be ready to be announced in time.

If this is not done, the term of office of the current delegation expires and nobody from the U.K. will be allowed to participate in C of E or W.E.U. meetings until a fresh delegation is appointed.

I have suggested - and this has the support and agreement of Peter Hardy who leads the Labour M.P.s on the delegation - that you anwer a written PQ during this present week appointing the current delegation for the coming session. This would remain in operation only until the House is ready to announce the names of a new delegation and the opportunites for this would be in time for Assembly meetings on 29th June or 30th September. The rules of both the C of E and our Parliament permit existing delegates (even if no longer M.P.s) to serve for six months or until a new delegation is appointed. For some reason, however, this proposal has been rejected and I have been told that no action is to be taken.

If this decision is unaltered the following will result:-

1) There will be no British representation at the C of E

2) There will be no British representation at WEU which I think Douglas Hurd and you realise is vital at this time.

3) I will not even be able to attend the May assembly to hand over the Presidency and, perhaps, to be thanked! (this is of course a personal matter which comes well down the order of priorities!)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

I think you know how hard I have tried to build up British prestige and influence in both these organisations and our absence would be taken as a sign that we were falling back into our old ways.

Yours ~~sincerely~~ ever,

TJS/AH

cf PPS R133

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

13 March 1992

Dear Stephen,

COUNCIL OF EUROPE DELEGATION

We spoke earlier today about the letter of 9 March from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg to the Prime Minister urging that this Delegation be reappointed in time for the opening of the 1992-93 Session of the Council of Europe/WEU, on 4 May.

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg had previously approached both the Lord President and the Chief Whip about this. The Business Managers' original view had been that it would be preferable to delay the appointment of the Delegation until the beginning of the new Parliament, when it would be possible to take a fresh look at its composition. Although the timing would have been tight, it would still have been possible to have a Written Answer announcing the new Delegation in time for them to travel to the meeting on 4 May. Sir Geoffrey Finsberg and the House authorities were aware of this, and remained concerned lest the necessary decisions were not in fact taken in time. Hence Sir Geoffrey's letter to the Prime Minister.

However the announcement of the General Election coupled with the announcement that the State Opening will be on 6 May has changed the position. Because Questions cannot be tabled until after the First Session of the new Parliament has been opened with the Queen's speech, it would simply not be possible to follow the original plan in time for a Delegation to attend the Session on 4 May. The UK would therefore have lost any chance to secure chairmanships and rapporteurships.

The House authorities accordingly suggested that we reappoint now only those Members of the Delegation who were standing again at the Election. The Business Managers felt that this would constrain Ministers' choices about the Delegation, on which they would still wish to take a view after the Election. Instead, they have agreed that an arranged Question should be answered on Monday indicating that the Prime Minister will announce the appointment of the Delegation around the end of April and report it to Parliament as soon as practicable thereafter (ie, by a Written Answer once the new Session is underway). The House authorities have confirmed that this approach will provide adequate authority for Members of the UK Delegation to attend the session on 4 May, and thus our position in bidding for chairmanships etc is preserved.

It is probable that individual Members of the current Delegation, who have been enquiring of the House authorities, already know ... that this is the way we are proceeding. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Sir Geoffrey Finsberg which explains the position to him.

I am copying this letter and the enclosures to Murdo Maclean and to Tim Hitchens (FCO).

T J SUTTON
Principal Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq LVO
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG MP

Thank you for your letter of 9 March.

I fully take your point about the importance of securing the UK's position when it comes to chairmanships and other positions within the Council of Europe/WEU for the 1992-93 Session. As you may be aware, things have moved on since ~~I~~ we announced on Wednesday that the State Opening would be on 6 May. Since that makes it impossible to announce by means of a Written Answer in the new Parliament the UK Delegation to be appointed after the General Election, a Question is being answered on Monday recording that the make up of the new Delegation will be announced at the end of April and reported to Parliament as soon as practicable thereafter. The House authorities have confirmed that this provides adequate cover for members of the new UK Delegation to attend the Session starting on 4 May and present their credentials in the usual way.

I am glad to be able to reassure you that your concerns have already been taken on board in this way.

A copy of this letter goes to John MacGregor.

IDS/AH

MONDAY 16 MARCH 1992 WRITTEN

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR DAVID HARRIS: To ask the Lord President of the Council, what are his plans for the appointment of the Delegation for the 1992-93 session of the Council of Europe/Western European Union.

Mr John MacGregor

My rt hon Friend the Prime Minister will be making the appointments to the Delegation at the end of April and will announce them to the House as soon as practicable thereafter.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

SofPC

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

9 March 1992

Dear Tim,

COUNCIL OF EUROPE/WEU DELEGATION

Thank you for your letter of 6 March to Murdo Maclean drawing attention to the misinterpretation of the procedures in respect of the 6 month "rule". We were fully aware of this misinterpretation and on receipt of Tim Hitchen's letter of 21 February clarified the position in conversation with him. This clarification did not affect Mr Tristan Garel-Jones' position on this issue, which we confirmed with him as recently as last Friday.

I am copying this letter to William Chapman (No.10), Tim Hitchens (FCO) and Douglas Slater (Lords Whips).

Yours ever,
Roy

R L ALDERTON
Assistant Private Secretary

Tim Sutton Esq
PPS/Lord President
Privy Council Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. John Major M.P.
10 Downing Street
London SW1.

9th March 1992

Dear John

I am sorry to have to trouble you at this busy time but you are the only person who can decide this issue.

Under the rules of the C of E, credentials of members for each country have to be presented annually to the May meeting - in this case before 4th May. It is quite clear from all past experience that a new delegation formed after a General Election would not be ready to be announced in time.

If this is not done, the term of office of the current delegation expires and nobody from the U.K. will be allowed to participate in C of E or W.E.U. meetings until a fresh delegation is appointed.

I have suggested - and this has the support and agreement of Peter Hardy who leads the Labour M.P.s on the delegation - that you anwer a written PQ during this present week appointing the current delegation for the coming session. This would remain in operation only until the House is ready to announce the names of a new delegation and the opportunites for this would be in time for Assembly meetings on 29th June or 30th September. The rules of both the C of E and our Parliament permit existing delegates (even if no longer M.P.s) to serve for six months or until a new delegation is appointed. For some reason, however, this proposal has been rejected and I have been told that no action is to be taken.

If this decision is unaltered the following will result:-

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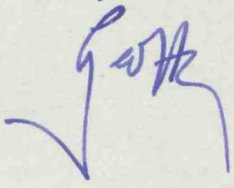
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SWIA OAA

I think you know how hard I have tried to build up British prestige and influence in both these organisations and our absence would be taken as a sign that we were falling back into our old ways.

Yours sincerely, we



TJS/AG

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

6 March 1992

Dear Murdo,

COUNCIL OF EUROPE/WEU DELEGATION

As you know we discussed this at a recent Business Managers' meeting. I gather that pressure from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg continues unabated.

Looking again at the papers, I think there is one point in Tim Hitchen's letter to you of 21 February (copy attached for ease of reference) which may be a slight misunderstanding.

The third paragraph of Tim's letter suggests that if it were not possible to appoint the new delegation in time for a May session of the Council of Europe, the rule about continuing the delegation for 6 months would come into force. But in fact, as I understand the position and as I interpret Ray Alderton's note to you, the 6 months continuation runs within the sessional year (which ends of course at the beginning of May) and would not permit the existing delegation to continue beyond the end of the sessional year.

What this means is that if we continue with the course we have so far agreed, of leaving action until after the General Election, it will be necessary to appoint the new delegation within the very first days of the new Parliament if they are to be able to present to the Council of Europe when it meets on 4 May their "credentials" so they can be approved as the delegation for the coming session ("credentials" meaning the Written Answer which confirms their appointment). The risk of a temporary gap in any sort of representation for the UK in the Council of Europe/WEU must therefore be a real one, given the Minister of State FCO's desire, mentioned in Tim Hitchen's letter, to go for a more thorough overhaul of the delegation membership.

I am copying this letter to Tim Hitchens, Douglas Slater and William Chapman.

Yours,

T J SUTTON
Principal Private Secretary

Murdo Maclean Esq
PS/Chief Whip
12 Downing Street
London SW1

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL RECD
25 FEB 1992
ACTION FOR
COPIES TO

21 February 1992

Murdo Maclean Esq
Private Secretary
to the Chief Whip
No 12 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A

Dear Murdo,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February about the Council of Europe/WEU delegation.

I have spoken to the Minister, who is inclined to agree with Ray Alderton's reservations about Sir Geoffrey Finsberg's suggestions. Mr Garel-Jones' aim would be to have the delegation chosen after a general election, and as you may know, he has some ideas for new members. He would prefer not to involve the Chief Whip and Prime Minister with this issue before the General Election.

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg indicated in his letter to you of 18 February that unless the credentials of the delegation are renewed before the May session of the Council of Europe his group might become disenfranchised. I have made some enquiries and it seems that, though in an ideal world the new team would be appointed very quickly after an election (in time perhaps for the May session) it would be no disaster if the rule about six month continuation of the delegation (Ray's para 2) came into force.

So Mr Garel-Jones' conclusion is that the answer to his request should be a negative. He suggests the Chief Whip himself should talk to Sir Geoffrey if he needs further explanation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office), Douglas Slater (Lords Whips Office), and to William Chapman (No 10).

Yours ever,

Tim

Tim Hitchens
Private Secretary
to Tristan Garel-Jones

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Appts? NO 17/3

From the Private Secretary

26 February 1992

Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you for your letter of 18 February about the Council of Europe/Western European Union Delegation. I understand the Chief Whip discussed this matter with you over the telephone and explained the Governments position in respect of re-appointing the present UK Delegation in advance of the coming General Election.

Yours ever,

Murdo

Murdo Maclean

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg MBE JP MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 February 1992

Murdo Maclean Esq
Private Secretary
to the Chief Whip
No 12 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A

Dear Murdo,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February about the Council of Europe/WEU delegation.

I have spoken to the Minister, who is inclined to agree with Ray Alderton's reservations about Sir Geoffrey Finsberg's suggestions. Mr Garel-Jones' aim would be to have the delegation chosen after a general election, and as you may know, he has some ideas for new members. He would prefer not to involve the Chief Whip and Prime Minister with this issue before the General Election.

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg indicated in his letter to you of 18 February that unless the credentials of the delegation are renewed before the May session of the Council of Europe his group might become disenfranchised. I have made some enquiries and it seems that, though in an ideal world the new team would be appointed very quickly after an election (in time perhaps for the May session) it would be no disaster if the rule about six month continuation of the delegation (Ray's para 2) came into force.

So Mr Garel-Jones' conclusion is that the answer to his request should be a negative. He suggests the Chief Whip himself should talk to Sir Geoffrey if he needs further explanation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office), Douglas Slater (Lords Whips Office), and to William Chapman (No 10).

Yours ever,

Tim

Tim Hitchens
Private Secretary
to Tristan Garel-Jones

R912

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 February 1992

Dear Tim,

I enclose a copy of a note from Ray Alderton to me about the Council of Europe/WEU Delegation.

As you will see from this and the attached letters, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg is pushing strongly for the present Delegation to be appointed within the next two weeks. In the circumstances I suspect the Chief Whip will be very grateful for your Minister's advice as to how we might best proceed. As you will see Sir Geoffrey would like to talk to somebody if the answer is likely to be negative.

I should be very grateful if you could let me have an early reply. I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office), Douglas Slater (Lords Whips Office), and to William Chapman (No. 10) for information only at this stage.

Yours ever,

Murdo

MURDO MACLEAN

Tim Hitchins Esq
Private Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1

Murdo

COUNCIL OF EUROPE/WEU DELEGATION

1. The UK Delegation to the Council of Europe/WEU is appointed annually by the Prime Minister in advance of the May session of the Council of Europe. The appointments continue for the whole sessional year, ie until the following April, or until new appointments are made, whichever is the sooner.

2. In 1987 a problem arose when the Election took place during a plenary session. A Member of the Delegation (Paul Hawkins) was not standing for re-election and when Parliament dissolved he was no longer entitled to travel and subsistence expenses as a Member of the Delegation. This caused some problems and so it was agreed that any announced appointment would continue even if Parliament itself was dissolved and following this agreement the present system evolved. Following an Election therefore the appointees continue in office until the end of the sessional year or until a new Delegation is appointed, subject to a limit of 6 months for those Members not re-elected to the UK Parliament.

3. It has now been suggested by Richard Lambert, the Delegation Secretary (see attached letter) that it would be sensible to re-appoint the present Delegation now to cover the new (1992/93) session beginning in May. He suggests that doing this would remove any pressure on an incoming administration to take speedy decisions on a new Delegation with the result that whatever happened the UK would be represented at the May session. The Leader of the Delegation (Sir Geoffrey Finsberg) supports this view (letter attached).

4. I have some reservations about the Delegation Secretary's suggestion. To my mind no incoming Government would wish to inherit a possibly unrepresented Delegation from its predecessor so we would still be under pressure to appoint a new Delegation quickly. His advice may also be coloured by the more personal wishes of some Members of the Delegation. I would also be reluctant to bother the Prime Minister with this issue unless we were in a position to offer firm advice on future action.

5. I would welcome guidance on our next move(s).

Ray
19.2.92

OVERSEAS OFFICE
(EUROPEAN SECTION)
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Telephone 071-219 3293
Fax 071-219 6832

10 February 1992

Dear Ray,

COUNCIL OF EUROPE/WEU DELEGATION

Recent speculation over the date of the General Election has brought to my attention a possible lacuna in the UK representation to the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union.

Following events arising out of previous Elections, the Administrative Guide, which governs the workings of the Delegations, was revised in order to clarify the position of Members of the Delegation with regard to expenses claims for attending meetings, and to ensure that the UK maintained an adequate level of representation at such international bodies. Paragraph 3 of the Guide explains that:

> "Members are entitled to claim allowable expenses from public funds in accordance with the rules laid down in this Guide as soon as their name has been recorded in the House of Commons Official Report as having been appointed to the Delegations (unless a different entitlement date is specifically given). Entitlement ends with the appointment of new Delegates in their place. It continues through periods when Parliament is adjourned, prorogued or even dissolved. A Delegate not re-elected to the House of Commons may, subject to the Charters and Rules of the Assemblies themselves, continue to attend Assembly meetings and claim expenses from public funds until a replacement is formally announced. It should be notified that at present, all three Assemblies place a limit of six months on ex-MPs remaining on national delegations."

Unlike Select Committees, the Delegation does not cease to exist with the Dissolution, nor remain in abeyance until re-nominated in the new Parliament. All those nominated to the Delegation remain active and participating Members until such time as they are replaced or, in the case of those defeated or retiring, for a maximum of six months after the Election. Their expenses continue to be paid from public funds.

Recycled Paper

However, under the rules of the Assemblies, Delegates' mandates last for one year, and must be renewed by their national Parliament immediately prior to the April/May Session of the Council of Europe: hence the annual question to the Prime Minister asking him to announce the names of the Members of the Delegation for the next Session of the Assembly. If this is not done, the Council of Europe Assembly is unable to ratify the credentials of the Delegation, or to inform the WEU Assembly of their acceptability. Consequently, the Delegation would not be permitted to participate in Assembly activities until such time as its credentials had been established and ratified.

It seems to me that if answering the PQ is left until the usual late March/early April period, we may find ourselves caught up in the final weeks before a dissolution, when people's minds will be focused on other, more immediately pressing issues, or on the dissolution itself. Equally, it seems unlikely that the nomination of a Delegation will be treated as a matter of the most urgent priority in the new Parliament, regardless of the result. Might I suggest therefore that the existing Delegation is re-nominated en bloc some time in the first week of March for the duration of the 44th Ordinary Session of the Council of Europe. They will then be able to continue their work up to the Election and beyond, with the retiring MPs and the Lords holding the fort during the Election campaign itself, until such time as a new Delegation is nominated. Even in the worst possible case, when six months after the Election, a new Delegation had still not been nominated, the existing Delegation would be able to continue to work until the April 1993 Session, minus those Members who had retired or been defeated.

I am sure you will understand the potential problem that I am laying before you, and will appreciate that I have put forward what appears to me to be the most practical solution. I have discussed it with Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, the Leader of the Delegation, who is fully in agreement.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Richard A. Lambert

R A Lambert
Delegation Secretary

Ray Alderton Esq
Assistant Private Secretary
Government Chief Whips Office
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Recycled Paper

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18th February, 1992

Dear Murdo

We spoke about the Council of Europe/Western European Union Delegation.

I would strongly urge that the present Delegation be re-appointed within the next two weeks, with the exception that I know the Chief Whip in the House of Lords wants - with their agreement - to substitute Lord Dundee for the Earl of Kinnoull.

The statute governing the Council of Europe insists that credentials are renewed each year and this would normally happen on 4th May, but as, by past experience, there is no possibility of the Delegation by then being considered and appointed, I do not want the U.K. to be disenfranchised.

The rules of the Council of Europe (accepted by the British Parliament) state that the existing Delegation members remain after a General Election, even if defeated, for a maximum of six months, and most countries usually wait three to five months before appointing their new Delegations.

If we do not do this, it will, amongst other things, make things embarrassing for me, as President of the Council of Europe and senior Vice-President of WEU. I have spoken to Peter Hardy, who leads the Labour members on the Delegation, and he is in full agreement with my recommendation.

If there is any difficulty, could I please talk to somebody.

Yours ever

Geoffrey

M. Maclean, Esq.,
Government Chief Whip's Office,
HOUSE OF COMMONS

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18th February, 1992

Dear Murdo

We spoke about the Council of Europe/Western European Union Delegation.

I would strongly urge that the present Delegation be re-appointed within the next two weeks, with the exception that I know the Chief Whip in the House of Lords wants - with their agreement - to substitute Lord Dundee for the Earl of Kinnoull.

The statute governing the Council of Europe insists that credentials are renewed each year and this would normally happen on 4th May, but as, by past experience, there is no possibility of the Delegation by then being considered and appointed, I do not want the U.K. to be disenfranchised.

The rules of the Council of Europe (accepted by the British Parliament) state that the existing Delegation members remain after a General Election, even if defeated, for a maximum of six months, and most countries usually wait three to five months before appointing their new Delegations.

If we do not do this, it will, amongst other things, make things embarrassing for me, as President of the Council of Europe and senior Vice-President of WEU. I have spoken to Peter Hardy, who leads the Labour members on the Delegation, and he is in full agreement with my recommendation.

If there is any difficulty, could I please talk to somebody.

Yours ever

Geoffrey

M. Maclean, Esq.,
Government Chief Whip's Office,
HOUSE OF COMMONS

fue 015

bc: PC

RESTRICTED

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 November 1991

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Thank you for your letter of 1 November about Sir Geoffrey Finsberg's invitation to the Prime Minister to address the Council of Europe in February 1992. In fact, because of other commitments, the Prime Minister has already decided to rule this out. I enclose a copy of his letter to Sir Geoffrey.

J. S. WALL

Richard Gozney, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

CP NT
GR

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 November 1991

Dear Stephen,

Visit by the Prime Minister to the Council of Europe

Thank you for your letter of 22 October with a letter from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg inviting the Prime Minister to address the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in February 1992.

Sir Geoffrey has written before in support of an invitation from the departing President of the Assembly, Anders Bjorck. I enclose copies of the correspondence.

If, as he expects, Sir Geoffrey becomes Assembly President next February, his term of office may be short-lived: he has announced that he will not stand for re-election at the next general election. He cannot continue as Assembly President if he does not belong to either House of Parliament here. Unless he is elevated to the Lords after the general election he cannot still be Assembly President during UK Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which runs from November 1992 to May 1993.

The Foreign Secretary continues to believe that it would be more useful for the Prime Minister to address the Assembly during the UK Presidency than before. This runs the risk of offending Sir Geoffrey if he has, in the meantime, left the British Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly. I enclose a draft reply to Sir Geoffrey which leaves the question open; but if you consider that there is little or no chance of the Prime Minister choosing a February date, you may prefer to tell him now.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: Prime Minister

TO: Sir Geoffrey Finsberg MBE JP MP
House of Commons

Thank you for your letter of 21 October inviting me to address the Council of Europe next February.

I am delighted that you will shortly become President of the Assembly; it will undoubtedly benefit under your leadership.

However I am sorry I cannot commit myself to addressing the Assembly next February. As you say, I have already agreed in principle to come, but diary commitments still preclude me from setting a firm time for the visit.

(DG3AAO)

WRL 026/2

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

31 May 1991

Dear Christopher,

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO STRASBOURG

Thank you for your letter of 28 May about a visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg.

The Prime Minister would like to be able to go this year to the Council of Europe because he would like to respond positively to the invitation from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg but he understands the arguments in your letter. There is therefore no action to be taken, at least for the time being.

The Prime Minister has noted the requirement to address the European Parliament at the end of our Presidency. I cannot begin to describe the feelings with which he looks forward to this event.

I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

James

Stephen

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

29/05
cc: Mr Marshall, UKDel Strasbourg
Hem pa WRR 026/2

WEF (8)

RESTRICTED

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

28 May 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen,

Visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg (6a)

Thank you for your letter of 17 May about a possible visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg in September.

Last December, when Mr Anders Bjorck, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, invited the Prime Minister to address the Assembly in 1991, the Foreign Secretary said that he did not see an address to the Council of Europe Assembly as a priority for the Prime Minister at any time this year.

The Foreign Secretary would still regard a visit by the Prime Minister to the Council of Europe during 1991 as a low priority. The Council of Europe Assembly will be in session on 23-24 September - but not the European Parliament. (They use the same premises and are therefore never in session at the same time.) A better timing for a Prime Ministerial visit to the Council of Europe would be during the British Presidency of the Council of Europe (from November 1992 - April/May 1993). The Presidency will in future come around only every thirteen to fourteen years, and we shall therefore wish to mark this occasion properly, e.g. through a major speech by the Prime Minister.

The programme of any visit might include an address to the Parliamentary Assembly, followed by a short question and answer session. Thereafter the President of the Assembly would normally host a lunch in the Prime Minister's honour.

As the Prime Minister will be due to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on either 16-17 December 1992 or in January 1993, on the UK Presidency of the EC and on the outcome of the European Council in Edinburgh, a visit to the Council of Europe would probably be best timed for the April/May 1993 session of the Assembly, which should also coincide with a meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

WED
PS
PS/Mr Garel-Jones

M. Wilson
11/1

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

14/01 cc: M. Marshall, UK Del Strasbourg
Hen f.a. WRR 026/2

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 January 1991

HC
14/1

Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December about a possible talk to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

I have indeed received the invitation from Mr. Björck and have replied that I am happy to accept in principle. I hope you and he will understand, however, if the timing of my visit is left open.

Yours Ever,
John

WRR 026/2
RLC
18 JAN 1991

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, MBE, JP, MP.

RLe SR

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 October 1991

Dear Geoffrey,

I am writing to say that, sadly, I do not think I shall be able to visit the Council of Europe next February. In the run-up to the election there are tremendous demands on my time here and you more than anyone will understand where the priorities must lie.

I know this will be a disappointment to you, as it is to me. But I have thought very carefully about it and hope you will understand if I put off a visit until after the election.

I am writing separately to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe but I hope you will explain the position to him.

Yours Ever,
John

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P.

FINSBERG MP

28/10

KW

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 October 1991

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg inviting him to address a session of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and WEU between 3 to 6 February next year.

I should be grateful for your advice on this invitation. Could this please reach me by Monday 28 October.

JSW

DOMINIC MORRIS

Christopher Prentice Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22/10

21st October, 1991

Dear John

You will recall that, following your meeting with the Delegation, you said you would, in principle, like to come and address a session in Strasbourg.

I arranged for an invitation to be extended to you, but, so far, no response has been received. One of my reasons for writing to you at that time was that there would be a European Democrat from Sweden presiding whilst you spoke - things have now changed!

If, as I hope, you will come between the 3rd and 6th February, there will be a different President, because our Swedish colleague has become Minister of Defence in Sweden. **I, in fact, will be President!**

I take over as Acting President, under an agreement with the other parties, next month, and shall be formally elected to serve out the balance of Mr. Bjorck's term at the opening of the session on 3rd February.

The combination of a British Conservative Prime Minister and a British Conservative President cannot happen again for a minimum of 12 years, and I do hope that you will say to those organising your diary not merely that you would <u>like</u> to come, but that a date must be fixed.

Yours Geoffrey

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

Leader of the United Kingdom Delegation to the
Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and Western European Union

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1 2AH

18 July 1991

Dear Stephen,

**Visit by the Prime Minister to
The Council of Europe**

I enclose an invitation from the President of the Council of Europe to the Prime Minister to visit Strasbourg in February 1992.

We had recent correspondence on an earlier invitation (my letter of 28 May and yours of 31 May, copies enclosed). Our recommendation would still be for a visit in April/May 1993 during the British Presidency of the Council, but I note from your letter of 31 May that the Prime Minister may wish to go for an earlier date.

Yours ever,

Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO
10 Downing Street

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

29/05
cc: Mr Marshall, UKDel Strasbourg
Hen pa WRK 026/2

RESTRICTED

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

28 May 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen,

Visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg

Thank you for your letter of 17 May about a possible visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg in September.

Last December, when Mr Anders Bjorck, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, invited the Prime Minister to address the Assembly in 1991, the Foreign Secretary said that he did not see an address to the Council of Europe Assembly as a priority for the Prime Minister at any time this year.

The Foreign Secretary would still regard a visit by the Prime Minister to the Council of Europe during 1991 as a low priority. The Council of Europe Assembly will be in session on 23-24 September - but not the European Parliament. (They use the same premises and are therefore never in session at the same time.) A better timing for a Prime Ministerial visit to the Council of Europe would be during the British Presidency of the Council of Europe (from November 1992 - April/May 1993). The Presidency will in future come around only every thirteen to fourteen years, and we shall therefore wish to mark this occasion properly, e.g. through a major speech by the Prime Minister.

The programme of any visit might include an address to the Parliamentary Assembly, followed by a short question and answer session. Thereafter the President of the Assembly would normally host a lunch in the Prime Minister's honour.

As the Prime Minister will be due to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on either 16-17 December 1992 or in January 1993, on the UK Presidency of the EC and on the outcome of the European Council in Edinburgh, a visit to the Council of Europe would probably be best timed for the April/May 1993 session of the Assembly, which should also coincide with a meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

WRL 026/2

CONFIDENTIAL

M Skelmersdale ECD(I) 9

PS
PS/Mr Gozney
PS/Pus
PS/Sec
PS/Secretary

pa. MG 3/6

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3/VI/91
31 May 1991

Heads ECD(E)
WED
News
Planning
Protocol
Specialist Advisers
CJS Prentice
31/V

Dear Christopher,

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO STRASBOURG

Thank you for your letter of 28 May about a visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg.

The Prime Minister would like to be able to go this year to the Council of Europe because he would like to respond positively to the invitation from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg but he understands the arguments in your letter. There is therefore no action to be taken, at least for the time being.

The Prime Minister has noted the requirement to address the European Parliament at the end of our Presidency. I cannot begin to describe the feelings with which he looks forward to this event.

I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours

Stephen

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

CCPR

Council of Europe
Parliamentary Assembly

The President

Strasbourg, 8 July 1991

Dear Prime Minister,

May I refer to my letter of 11 December 1990 in which I invited you to address the Parliamentary Assembly. In the meantime, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg informed me that previous commitments prevent you from visiting Strasbourg in September.

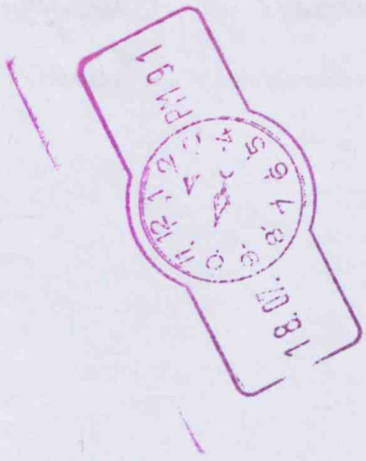
I hope, however, that you would be able to speak to us during the 3rd part of the 43rd session which is scheduled to take place from 3 to 7 February 1992. Thursday 6 February 1992 would appear to be the most suitable date, but we could adapt the Assembly's time-table to suite your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Björck

His Excellency
Mr John MAJOR, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
GB - LONDON SW1A 2AA

Postal address: B.P.431 R6 - 67006 Strasbourg Cedex - France
Tel.: (33) 88412000 - Telecopy: (33) 88412796



PRIME MINISTER

CONSERVATIVE DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

After consultation with Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, the Chief Whip proposes the following changes:

(i) John Wilkinson to stand down. He has been on the delegation for ten years. More importantly, his voting record has been appalling and the Chief Whip has written to him separately about this.

(ii) James Hill wishes to stand down. He will be joining the Chairman's Panel.

(iii) Donald Thompson to be added as a full member and to act as group whip.

(iv) John Ward to be promoted from alternate to full member, and to act as whip in charge of liaison with other groups.

(v) Andrew Rowe to become the new alternate. The Chief Whip describes him as "decent" and as looking for a role. He accepts that he is unlikely to make ministerial office. He has a reasonable majority (15,000) and so can afford the 40 days a year away.

Content?

ANDREW TURNBULL
19 June 1990

c:\pps\europe (ecl)

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MDHOAN 1299

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 192 viii A88

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UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 191400Z BONN
TELNO 718
OF 191258Z DECEMBER 88
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL STRASBOURG

SUBJECT
cc Mander
OPS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CHANCELLOR KOHL:

BEGINS
DEAR HELMUT
WHEN WE MET IN RHODES, WE HAD A WORD ABOUT THE CHOICE OF A NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. AS YOU WILL RECALL, THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL HAS TO ELECT SOMEONE AT ITS MAY SESSION NEXT YEAR AND NOMINATIONS HAVE TO BE RECEIVED BY 31 DECEMBER.

I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU AND WE WOULD WISH TO SEE INSTALLED IN THAT POST SOMEBODY WHO SHARED THE GENERAL AIMS OF OUR TWO PARTIES FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. THESE AIMS INCLUDE GREATER SELECTIVITY: BETTER CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT AND SPEED OF ACTION: THE OVERHAUL OF THE COUNCIL'S ORGANISATION METHODS AND STAFFING: AND A POLICY OF ZERO REAL GROWTH IN ITS BUDGET.

NO BRITISH CANDIDATE IS LIKELY TO COME FORWARD, BUT I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT OUR BRITISH DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SUPPORT ANY GERMAN CANDIDATE WHO WOULD UPHOLD THE OBJECTIVES I HAVE MENTIONED. ONE OR TWO NAMES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO US AND I WILL ASK CHARLES POWELL TO PASS THESE ON TO MR TELTSCHIK. I REALLY DO THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS POST SHOULD GO TO SOMEONE WHO THINKS ALONG THE SAME LINES AS YOU AND I.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR. YOURS EVER MARGARET.
ENDS

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.

O[redacted]57
MDHOAN 1299

HOWE

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DISTRIBUTION 27

MAIN 27

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WED
RESEARCH DEPT
PS

PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/PUS
MR RATFORD

NNNN

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T192/88

file DTS
'T' cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

SUBJECT cc Master OPS

19 December 1988

Dear Helmut.

When we met in Rhodes, we had a word about the choice of a new Secretary-General for the Council of Europe. As you will recall, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council has to elect someone at its May session next year and nominations have to be received by 31 December.

I am certain that you and we would wish to see installed in that post somebody who shared the general aims of our two parties for the Council of Europe. These aims include greater selectivity; better concentration of effort and speed of action; the overhaul of the Council's organisation methods and staffing; and a policy of zero real growth in its budget.

No British candidate is likely to come forward, but I feel confident that our British delegates to the Assembly would be happy to support any German candidate who would uphold the objectives I have mentioned. One or two names have been suggested to us and I will ask Charles Powell to pass these on to Mr Teltschik. I really do think it important that this post should go to someone who thinks along the same lines as you and I.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours ever

Margaret

His Excellency Dr Helmut Kohl

DTS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 December 1988

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

I enclose a letter from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Kohl about a new Secretary-General for the Council of Europe. I should be grateful if the text could be telegraphed to Bonn for delivery to the Federal Chancellery as soon as possible.

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL
FM UKREP BRUSSELS
TO DESKBY 190900Z FCO
TELNO 3958
OF 171340Z DECEMBER 88
INFO IMMEDIATE OECD POSTS
INFO PRIORITY STRASBOURG, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKMIS GENEVA, UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW

FRAME GENERAL

UKREP TELNO 3941
COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS : COMMENT

SUMMARY

1. A CURATE'S EGG, AS USUAL. TWO BRITISH COMMISSIONERS GET SUBSTANTIAL PORTFOLIOS. INSUFFICIENCY OF LOAVES AND FISHES TO GO ROUND 17 COMMISSIONES LEADS AGAIN TO MANY AWKWARD DIVISIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MESSAGES TO AND MEETINGS WITH NEW APPOINTEES.

DETAIL

2. THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW COMMISSION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE REMARKABLY SMOOTHLY, AND RAPIDLY, THE OUTCOME CORRESPONDING EXACTLY TO THE DRAFT WHICH WAS AVAILABLE IN BRUSSELS JUST BEFORE THE MEETING BEGAN IN THE ARDENNES. ONLY CARDOSO, THE PORTUGUESE COMMISSIONER BEWAILED HIS LOT, AND HE WAS GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT.

3. IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS DELORS HAS BEEN GRADUALLY SLOTTING THE PIECES INTO PLACE AND IT WAS CLEAR A FEW DAYS AGO THAT HIS ONLY REAL REMAINING PROBLEM WAS WITH MARIN, THE SPANISH VICE-PRESIDENT, WHO HAD SET HIS HEART ON HAVING THE BUDGET AND WAS RESISTING DELORS' CHOICE FOR HIM OF DEVELOPMENT AID. THERE WAS MUCH TALK OF AN INTERVENTION ON HIS BEHALF BY THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER WHO SAW DELORS ON 12 DECEMBER. WHATEVER THE TRUTH OF THAT, DELORS HAS GOT HIS WAY, THE DEVELOPMENT PILL BEING SWEETENED FOR MARIN BY THE ADDITION OF THE FISHERIES PORTFOLIO.

4. THE TWO BRITISH COMMISSIONERS HAVE GOT SUBSTANTIAL PORTFOLIOS. IN ADDITION TO COMPETITION POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN STEADILY GAINING IN SIGNIFICANCE OVER RECENT YEARS AND IS SET TO CONTINUE TO DO SO IN FUTURE, MR BRITTAN HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING, INSURANCE ETC.): BUT CONSUMER POLICY WAS WHISKED AWAY FROM

HIM AT THE LAST MOMENT TO MAKE UP WEIGHT FOR VAN MIERT'S PORTFOLIO. MR MILLAN IS RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR THE MUCH EXPANDED REGIONAL POLICY BUT ALSO FOR THE INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES AND FOR OTHER INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS: BUT UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PRIZE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (THE NEW OBJECTIVE 5(B)) AWAY FROM AGRICULTURE.

5. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER PLUSES FOR US IN THE NEW APPOINTMENTS. TRADE POLICY, WITH THE URUGUAY ROUND AT ITS HEART, IS IN THE EXPERIENCED HANDS OF ANDRIESSEN. THE SINGLE MARKET PORTFOLIO, ALBEIT A LITTLE TRUNCATED FROM THE ONE HELD BY LORD COCKFIELD, TOGETHER WITH THE OLDER, RUSTBELT INDUSTRIES, GO TO BANGEMANN, AN ECONOMIC (AS WELL AS A POLITICAL) LIBERAL WHO IS NOT LIKELY TO FAVOUR OVER-REGULATORY AND INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES. THE BUDGET HAS FALLEN TO SCHMIDHUBER WHOSE INTENSELY CAUTIOUS CONSERVATISM MAY PROVE AN ASSET THERE, ALTHOUGH HIS ABSENCE OF CLOUT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES WILL CERTAINLY NOT. THE LUXEMBOURGER, DONDELINGER SHOULD BRING AN APPROACH TO BROADCASTING, CULTURE AND AUDIO-VISUAL WORK MUCH CLOSER TO OUR THINKING THAN THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR, RIPA. THE APPOINTMENT OF A SEPARATE COMMISSIONER FOR FISCAL QUESTIONS AND ONE WITHOUT ANY VERY FIXED IDEAS ON HOW TO PROCEED, COULD REDUCE THE TENSIONS IN THAT SECTOR.

6. THERE ARE HOWEVER A NUMBER OF LESS ENCOURAGING ASPECTS TO THE APPOINTMENTS. IT IS BAD NEWS THAT THE NEED TO PACIFY MARIN HAS LED TO A SPANIARD GETTING THE FISHERIES PORTFOLIO. HOWEVER GOOD MACSHARRY'S RECENT TRACK RECORD AS A FINANCE MINISTER, THE APPOINTMENT OF AN IRISHMAN TO THE AGRICULTURAL PORTFOLIO IS HARDLY LIKELY TO BOOST THE CAUSE OF CAP REFORM. THE CONCENTRATION OF SPANIARDS IN THE THIRD WORLD JOBS MEANS THAT RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA WILL GET MUCH MORE ATTENTION: MARIN, WITHOUT A WORD OF ENGLISH AND WITH A QUARRELSOME DISPOSITION, SEEMS UNLIKELY TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE LOME RE-NEGOTIATION. THE APPOINTMENT OF RIPA TO HANDLE ENVIRONMENT IS HARD TO TAKE SERIOUSLY. AND PUTTING PROBABLY THE MOST LEFT-WING OF THE NEW COMMISSIONERS, MS PAPANDREOU, IN SOCIAL AFFAIRS HARDLY BODES WELL FOR US (DELORS DID TRY FOR SOME WEEKS TO IDENTIFY A NON-SOCIALIST FOR THAT JOB BUT FINALLY ABANDONED THAT APPROACH WHEN MACSHARRY WAS NEEDED ELSEWHERE).

7. THE VERY NUMEROUS OVERLAPS BETWEEN OUR OWN DIVISION OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THOSE IN THE NEW COMMISSION MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO PUT FORWARD DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MESSAGES TO THE NEW COMMISSIONERS. BUT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT MINISTERS WHO NORMALLY GO TO PARTICULAR COUNCILS SHOULD SEND

MESSAGES TO THE COMMISSIONERS THEY WILL EXPECT TO MEET AT THEM (TO EXISTING COMMISSIONERS WITH CHANGED JOBS AS WELL AS TO NEW ONES). IN ADDITION I WOULD RECOMMEND MESSAGES FROM LORD YOUNG TO BANGEMANN AND TO ANDRIESSEN: AND FROM YOURSELF TO ANDRIESSEN AND TO MATUTES.

8. MORE IMPORTANT THAN MESSAGES, I RECOMMEND THAT WE PUT IN HAND A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN EACH OF THE NEW COMMISSIONERS AND OUR OWN MINISTERS ARE ORGANISED WITHIN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989. SUCH MEETINGS CAN EITHER BE ARRANGED IN BRUSSELS, IN SOME CASES TACKED ON TO A COUNCIL MEETING, OR BY INVITING THE NEW COMMISSIONERS TO LONDON (MORE PRACTICAL WHEN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES COVER MORE THAN ONE OF OUR OWN MINISTERS). OTHER MEMBER STATES WILL NOT BE BACKWARD IN PRESSING THEIR OWN POINTS OF VIEW ON THE NEWCOMERS AND WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO OTHERWISE.

9. RESIDENT CLERKD PLEASE ENSURE THIS TELEGRAM AND MY TUR ARE AVAILABLE TO THOSE ATTENDING THE FAC ON 19 DECEMBER (PS/ S OF S, PS/MRS CHALKER, KERR).

HANNAY
ADVANCE
RESIDENT CLERK
PS/SOFS
PS/MRS CHALKER
KERR FCO
LAVELLE CAB
MAIN
FRAME GENERAL

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 346

MAIN 345

.FRAME GENERAL ECD (I)

ADDITIONAL 1

FRAME

NNNN

Department of Employment
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF

Telephone 01-273 5803
Telex 915564 Fax 01-273 5821

Secretary of State

Stephen Wall Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

NBPM
CBM 20/xii

16 December 1988

Dear Stephen

COUNCIL OF EUROPE: EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER (ESC): PROPOSED DENUNCIATION OF ARTICLE 7(8) AND ARTICLE 8(4)(b)

Following consideration of responses to the consultative document "Restrictions on Employment of Young People and the Removal of Sex Discrimination in Legislation", which was issued in December 1987, my Secretary of State is proposing to abolish restrictions in the law affecting the employment opportunities for women and young people. The relevant repeals have been included in the Employment Bill which was introduced to Parliament on 30 November.

The implementation of the relevant provisions of the proposed Bill is, however, complicated by the fact that some of the legislation due to be repealed provides the Government's main means of complying with certain of our obligations under the European Social Charter. The articles concerned are Article 7, paragraph 8, which provides that persons under 18 years of age shall not be employed in night work, and Article 8, paragraph 4(b) which prohibits the employment of women workers in underground mining. Under the terms of Article 37 of the European Social Charter, the next opportunity for the UK to denounce the Charter or any part of it will occur on 26 February 1990, and prior notification of intention to denounce ... is required by 26 August 1989 (see attached note on the ESC and denunciation issues). It will therefore be necessary to keep the relevant legislation in force until after the date

when the denunciation has formally taken effect, ie. until after 26 February 1990. The repeal of the other legislation to be repealed by the Employment Bill can, however, be implemented when the Bill receives Royal Assent.

This will be the the second occasion on which the Government has taken the opportunity of denouncing part of the Chapter. Article 8(4)(a) was denounced on 26 February 1988 following the review of legal restrictions on the hours of work of women, the repeals of which were contained in the Sex Discrimination Act 1986. On that occasion, Cabinet colleagues were consulted prior to notification of the proposed denunciation to the CBI and TUC. The Secretary of State proposes, after the Bill has passed through the Committee stage, that the CBI and TUC should also be informed of the current proposals for denunciation. Following that he proposes to write again to the Foreign Secretary to invite him to initiate the necessary action to give notice of denunciation to the Council of Europe before 26 August 1989.

I should be grateful to have, by 23 December any comments which you and the other Private Secretaries to whom I am copying this letter may have on this proposal.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, the Private Secretaries to other members of the Cabinet and Sir Robin Butler's Private Secretary.

Yours sincerely

Liz Smith

LIZ SMITH
Private Secretary

Article 37 of the ESC allows any Contracting Party to denounce the ESC in whole or in part at the end of a period of five years from the date on which the ESC entered into force for that state, or at the end of any successive period for two years and, in each case, after giving six months' notice to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. As far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the Charter entered into force on 26 February 1965, so the first date for denunciation was 26 February 1970 and thereafter the relevant dates would be at the conclusion of successive periods of two years ie 1972, 1974 etc. The next available date for denunciation for the UK is therefore 26 February 1990, and the necessary six months' notice must accordingly be given before 26 August 1989.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

16 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Thank you for your letter of 3 ~~December~~ last about Sir Geoffrey Finsberg's approach to the Prime Minister.

If Madame Lalumière runs, she is likely to attract considerable support. But we understand that there may be a second Socialist candidate, M. Roger Linster of Luxembourg. This could split the Socialist vote.

/ Our Ministers do not know Herr Reddemann or Herr Lenzer personally. I attach CVs. Our contacts suggest that Reddemann is a hard line right-wing politician, a fighter and a capable manager. He would no doubt assume a high profile. He would probably be cautious about developing Council of Europe links with Eastern Europe. Lenzer has less parliamentary experience, but a greater interest in specific issues. He has particular experience of technology and the environment. He would probably be a less capable manager than Reddemann.

Given a choice between the two, our contacts suggest that the CDU would probably nominate Reddemann, the senior man.

/ I attach a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Kohl which has been prepared on the political net. As you will see it does not suggest any specific German candidate. This seems right given that the only ideas on the subject so far have come from Sir Geoffrey Finsberg. But you may well wish to ensure, again perhaps on the political net, that Herr Reddemann's name at least is registered with the Chancellery.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PS. Nominations have to be in by 31 December.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Gerhard REDDEMANN

Representative - German - CDU/CSU

Born 22 February 1932 at Heiligenstadt. — After secondary school education, studied journalism. From 1953 to 1970 editor then editor-in-chief of various newspapers and reviews. Currently free-lance journalist and leader-writer for various daily and weekly papers. Editor of the journal of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group. Joined the East German CDU in 1947; adviser on youth matters in 1949. Expelled from the Party in 1950, fled to the Federal Republic. 1953-69, member of the German Council of the Youth Union. Member of the Bundestag since 1969 (North Rhine-Westphalia constituency). Chairman of the committee on German domestic relations since 1973. From 1973 to 1976, Parliamentary Secretary of the CDU/CSU group. Since 1977 spokesman of the CDU/CSU group for Council of Europe and WEU affairs. Member of the CDU Federal Committee and of the CDU Steering Committee for the Westphalia-Lippe region. Member of the Administrative Board of the Deutschlandfunk. Member of the Board of the Federal Institute of Political Education. — Awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic. — Married, two children. Catholic.

Representative to the Council of Europe Assembly since April 1977. Vice President of the Assembly, from May 1981 to April 1983; and again since April 1986. — Head of the German delegation since April 1980.

Address: Letterhausstrasse 1, 5800 Hagen 1

Christian LENZER

Substitute - German - CDU/CSU

Born 19 February 1933 at Burg/Dillkreis (Hessen). After primary school, attended Dillenburg Secondary School. Abitur, 1954. Studied modern languages and political science at Marburg University. 1956-57, German language assistant at Lycée Emile Loubet, Valence (Drôme). First and Second State Diplomas, 1959 and 1962. — Head of CDU-party Lahn-Dill and Central Hessen. Chairman of the Lahn-Dill Diet. — Member of the Bundestag since 1969; spokesman of CDU/CSU for science and technology. — Married, three children Protestant.
Substitute to the Council of Europe Assembly since March 1973.* Chairman, Science/Technology Ctee May 87.
Address: Am Türmchen 1, D 6349 Burg/Dillkreis.

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CHANCELLOR KOHL

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is due to elect a new Secretary-General for the Council at its May session next year. I understand that nominations have to be received by 31 December this year.

I am certain that you and we would wish to see installed in that post somebody who shared the general aims of our two parties for the Council of Europe. These aims include greater selectivity; better concentration of effort and speed of action; the overhaul of the Council's organisation methods and staffing; and a policy of zero real growth in its budget.

No British candidate is likely to be put forward at this stage. I feel confident that our British delegates to the Assembly would be happy to support any German candidate who would uphold the objectives I have mentioned.

Margaret Thatcher

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE
DA
cKW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 December 1988

Dear Stephen.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg M.P. gave the Prime Minister a note before she came to Rhodes on the nomination of a new Secretary General for the Council of Europe. The main elements of this were: the unexpected decision of the present Secretary General not to seek re-election caused problems; the post was a key one; the French were likely to nominate a Socialist lady, Madame la Lumiere, which would be undesirable; there was no chance of a British candidate; we should therefore try to persuade the Germans to nominate someone, possibly either Mr. Reddeman or Mr. Lenzer.

The Prime Minister mentioned this to Chancellor Kohl in the margins of the European Council and he promised to look into it. He said it would be helpful if the Prime Minister could let him have a short letter about it. You may feel it best for this to go on the political net. But I should be grateful if you could either let me have a draft or alternatively let me know any points which you think ought to be taken into account.

BF //

I am giving a copy of this letter to John Whittingdale in the No.10 political office.

Yours ever,

(C.D. POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTES DICTATED BY SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, MP., ON THE NOMINATION FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

1. The unexpected decision of the Secretary General not to seek re-election has caused problems.

2. Nominations for the post have to be made by governments from amongst members of national delegations by 31 December.

3. The assembly members then vote in May.

4. The post is key to the whole future of the organisation, as the Secretary General sets down the policy.

5. The French are likely to nominate a Socialist lady, Madame la Lumiere, or if it is felt that the French person is not acceptable, then they would possibly ask the Luxembourg government to nominate a Socialist named Leinster. The reason that the French nominee might be unacceptable is that they already have the Clerk to the WEU Assembly, the immediate past-President of WEU and the current President of the Council of Europe.

6. When elected, the Secretary General has to sever all links with his national Parliament and if it were not for our election problems it is reasonably certain that we could obtain this post for the United Kingdom. But I believe we can now only try to persuade the West Germans to make a nomination.

7. Their candidate - if willing to serve - could be either Mr Reddeman or Mr Lenzer.

8. Failing the Germans, then we have a problem because no other Christian Democrat or European Democrat likely to win comfortably comes readily to my mind.

9. If this is not something that can be dealt with at Rhodes then I think that Geoffrey Howe or Lynda Chalker will need to talk to Foreign Ministers from the non-EEC members of the Council of Europe.

1 December 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

SLHAXA

PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

7 June 1988

From the Private Secretary

Dear Lyn,

WEU: HANDLING OF THE UK PRESIDENCY

The Prime Minister has considered the Foreign Secretary's minute of 6 June about the handling of our Presidency of the WEU which begins on 1 July. She thinks that we are right to set fairly modest objectives and to guard against trying to undertake activities in the WEU that properly belong in NATO. She would not at this stage wish to commit herself to a public statement or speech on WEU. But one obvious opportunity to say something is in her speech on Europe in Bruges in September. I suggest that you prepare a draft passage for inclusion in that, which might also range over other aspects of European defence co-operation, so that the Prime Minister has a concrete and specific proposal to consider.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence) and to Sir Robin Butler.

yours ever,

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

SKL

010

CC PC

Prime Minister

This is all very general, although there may be little scope for specific decisions.

You are invited to make a statement about WEU in a speech. One possibility would be your speech in Bruges in September. But it may be best to wait & see what we have to say before committing ourselves.

Agree?

CDP

Yes

MT

PM/88/021

PRIME MINISTER

WEU: Handling of UK Presidency

1. Our Presidency of the WEU begins on 1 July. George Younger and I have discussed how we might best use it to channel the WEU's work in helpful directions.

2. The WEU has shown that it can be a useful forum for concerting European approaches to collective security. The strong references to the need for nuclear weapons in the WEU Platform proved a useful rallying point for the subsequent NATO Summit declaration; and the cover which WEU has provided for drawing European nations such as the Netherlands and Belgium into activity in the Gulf has been much appreciated in Washington. At a time of increasing pressure for burdensharing we can exploit the WEU to engineer a more substantial, effective and visible European contribution to collective defence.

/3.

3. A WEU Presidency offers fewer opportunities - and imposes far fewer burdens - than an EC Presidency. Our expectations of what we can achieve during ours are correspondingly limited. All WEU governments face budgetary pressures; and there are no easy fixes for securing better defence output. We are quite clear that we must avoid undertaking activities in the WEU that should properly be handled in NATO. But WEU does have the particular advantage of involving the French more closely than NATO in security issues. We should be able, despite the constraints, to use our Presidency to make a modest but real contribution to strengthening the European Pillar.

4. Our Presidency will have four main objectives:

i) To elaborate the commitments in the WEU Platform and, where possible, use them as a means of encouraging better practical contributions to the common defence

Our principal focus will be on :

- more equitable burden-sharing, both within the Alliance and among the Europeans themselves;
- practical commitments within the Alliance framework (particularly on the part of France and Spain) to defend other members at their borders;
- more effective use of defence resources.

Ministries of Defence will look among other things at means of encouraging additional contributions to the Alliance and new forms of cooperation within it. We would like our first Ministerial on 14/15 November to be able to agree practical measures to strengthen the European contribution to the Alliance.

ii) To use the WEU as a forum for concerting European views on current security issues in order to provide a more coherent European input to Alliance discussions

We have already been able to use discussion within the WEU to bring pressure to bear on partners to avoid idiosyncratic political lines; for example to impress upon the Germans the hazards of embracing SNF arms control; and to impress on both the Germans and the Italians the reality of the problems in CW. A major topic for discussion during our Presidency will be the implications of START for Europe and how best we can influence the new US Administration's handling of any residual problems affecting the Treaty and the prospect of any further strategic arms negotiations. Reports on this and on conventional arms control are in preparation for discussion at the November Ministerial, where burden-sharing will also be a key topic. We hope to steer this discussion to produce a coherent European view of the security and arms control agenda, on which you could draw when talking to the new US Administration.

iii) To develop the WEU as a forum for coordinating European approaches to out-of-area issues

The WEU has provided valuable cover for minesweeping activity by European navies in the Gulf (good news in the US burdensharing context). Unlike NATO, there are no geographical limits on the WEU's field of action. It can therefore be used to coordinate European approaches to other out-of-area issues as they arise, and in particular can offer our partners political cover for joint activity out of area that they would not contemplate on a purely national basis. We can also use the WEU to build up moral support from the other Europeans for national efforts out of area in the Western interest by ourselves and the French - and indirectly the US.

iv) To secure a satisfactory outcome to the enlargement discussions with Spain and Portugal

As I minuted you on 8 April, our aim is to stage-manage Portugal's accession, ensuring at the same time that Spain meets the criteria for membership before being allowed to join. We intend to use the lever of possible WEU membership to maximise Spain's contribution to NATO. We will want to explore the possibilities of a Spanish contribution to forward defence and of a modification of current Spanish resistance to participation in nuclear burdensharing. If we can tie up accession on satisfactory terms during our Presidency, there may also be some helpful spin-off for our wider relationship with both Spain and Portugal.

5. On the institutional front, we will keep up the pressure to slim down the WEU Agencies in Paris and to collocate in Brussels. The Dutch Presidency made repeated attempts to secure French agreement to Brussels, but failed. We should not therefore publicise this issue as a major test of our Presidency. Our interests will be better served by letting the French stew with an arrangement which, as the Agencies atrophy, will leave them increasingly uncomfortable.

6. The Presidency also gives us an opportunity to promote the UK's view of the WEU's role and future development and publicise what we are achieving. We need to set out more clearly and forcefully our concept of WEU's role as a European ginger group within the Alliance. We can do this during the main events of our Presidency - the Councils in November and April and the plenaries of the WEU Assembly. We will also brief the press to give a good launch on 1 July. But it would be particularly valuable, in putting our stamp on the direction and development of WEU, if you were to make an appropriate statement on the subject to Parliament or in a public speech. If you agree, we will suggest a suitable peg and provide the necessary material.

7. I am sending copies of this minute to George Younger and to Sir Robin Butler.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
6 June 1988

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

CC/GR.

R 30/3

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Prime Minister.
Content with this draft reply, and the names?
HEW 31/3

30 March 1988

Dear Mark,

Yes MT

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN UNION DELEGATION

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS I AM NOW ABLE TO SUBMIT TO YOU FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL THE LIST OF PROPOSED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION.

ATTACHED IS THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ALSO DRAFT LETTERS FOR YOU TO SEND TO THE MEMBERS CONCERNED.

I AM COPYING THIS TO THE DELEGATION SECRETARY, LIAM LAURENCE-SMYTH.

Yours ever,

Colin

C A H PHILLIPS

M ADDISON ESQ
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1

P.S. It is hoped that the PQ will be answered in the first week back after the Easter break.

31/3.

DRAFT

(To be Answered by the Prime Minister)

To ask the Prime Minister, if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation for the 40th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

THE PRIME MINISTER:

The 40th Session Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be opened in Strasbourg on 2 May 1988. The delegation from the United Kingdom for the Session will consist of eleven Members of the Conservative Party, six Members of the Labour Party and one Member of the Social Liberal & Democratic Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union, which next meets in Paris on 6th June.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

My hon Friend the Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Sir Geoffrey Finsberg) - who will act as leader of both delegations

The hon Members for:

Warwick and Leamington (Sir D Smith)
Southampton, test (Mr Hill) (Government Whip)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Northampton South (Mr Morris)
Halesowen and Stourbridge (Mr Stokes)
Ruislip-Northwood (Mr Wilkinson)
Ashford (Mr Speed)
Streatham (Mr Shelton)
Medway (Dame P Fenner)
and the Earl of Kinnoull.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LABOUR PARTY WILL BE:

THE HON MEMBERS FOR:

NEATH (MR COLEMAN)
WALLSEND (MR GARRETT)
WENTWORTH (MR HARDY)
TOOTING (MR COX)
LIVERPOOL, RIVERSIDE (MR PARRY)
FALKIRK EAST (MR EWING)

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOCIAL LIBERAL & DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL BE:

THE HON MEMBER FOR INVERNESS, NAIRN AND LOCHABER (SIR R JOHNSTON).

THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO ACT AS NECESSARY ON BEHALF
OF THE DELEGATES.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES:

THE HON MEMBERS FOR:

BOURNEMOUTH EAST (MR ATKINSON)
EASTWOOD (MR STEWART)
NORTH NORFOLK (MR HOWELL)
THANET NORTH (MR GALE)
LEWES (MR RATHBONE)
BRIGHTON, KEMPTOWN (MR BOWDEN)
CENTRAL SUFFOLK (MR LORD)
RAVENSBOURNE (MR HUNT)
LORD NEWALL AND LORD RODNEY.

FROM THE LABOUR PARTY:

THE HON MEMBERS FOR:

WANSBECK (MR THOMPSON)
MANCHESTER CENTRAL (MR LITHERLAND)
DON VALLEY (MR REDMOND)
WARLEY EAST (MR FAULDS)
LEWISHAM, DEPTFORD (MS RUDDOCK)
CUNNINGHAME SOUTH (MR LAMBIE)
AND LORD KIRKHILL

FROM THE SOCIAL LIBERAL & DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

THE LORD MACKIE OF BENSHIE

DRAFT LETTER TO:

ALL EXISTING MEMBERS

THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. YOU WILL ALSO BE A FULL MEMBER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WILL BE ANNOUNCING YOUR APPOINTMENT BY WAY OF A PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN ANSWER [TOMORROW] AND UNTIL THEN SHE WOULD WISH THE MATTER TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

ALL EXISTING SUBSTITUTES [ ]

THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. YOU WILL ALSO BE A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WILL BE ANNOUNCING YOUR APPOINTMENT BY WAY OF A PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN ANSWER [TOMORROW] AND UNTIL THEN SHE WOULD WISH THE MATTER TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

MR H EWING MP

THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. YOU WILL ALSO BE A FULL MEMBER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WILL BE ANNOUNCING YOUR APPOINTMENT BY WAY OF A PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN ANSWER [TOMORROW] AND UNTIL THEN SHE WOULD WISH THE MATTER TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

MR J HUNT MP

THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. YOU WILL ALSO BE A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WILL BE ANNOUNCING YOUR APPOINTMENT BY WAY OF A PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN ANSWER [TOMORROW] AND UNTIL THEN SHE WOULD WISH THE MATTER TO BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, MBE, JP, MP

I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT YOU WERE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO LEAD THE DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. YOUR LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST YEAR HAS ENHANCED OUR REPUTATION GREATLY AND, AS THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO DO IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, I AM STRENGTHENED IN MY RESOLVE BY THE DEDICATED WORK OF THE DELEGATION YOU HEAD.

DRAFT

DAME JILL KNIGHT MP

THE TIME HAS COME TO APPOINT THE DELEGATIONS TO BOTH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS YOUR WISH TO STAND DOWN. I THOUGHT IT RIGHT TO FORMALLY RECORD ~~RECORD~~ MY THANKS FOR YOUR STERLING WORK ON BOTH DELEGATIONS. I KNOW YOU WILL GE GREATLY MISSED BY BOTH OUR PARLIMANETARY DELEGATION, AND MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN EUROPE.

EURO POL : Council of Europe.
Apr 81.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

CF – p.a.

Liam Laurance-Smyth Esq
Secretary
Council of Europe Delegation
Overseas Office
House of Commons
London SW1

4 March 1988

Dear Liam,

We spoke very briefly last week about the timing of any announcement on The Council of Europe and WEU delegations. I am particularly keen to avoid the need to approach No.10 at very short notice to obtain the Prime Minister's approval to any change of delegates.

Perhaps you will let me know if any changes have to be made to the delegation, or if membership has to be renewed, and by which date.

Anne Lakeman

pp (C A H Phillips)

(dictated by Colin Phillips and despatched in his absence)

cc Mark Addison

SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Prime Minister 4

MBT

R 4/12 pps

1st December 1987

(Council of Europe)

Dear Margaret

mb

Thank you very much for your letter of the 23rd and I appreciate your continuing confidence in me.

I will carry on with the greatest of pleasure serving under your leadership without which Britain could never have regained her rightful place in the world.

as ever

Geoffrey

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 November 1987

Dear Geoffrey

I am very pleased you are willing to serve once again as leader of the delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. I know you will continue to provide the strong leadership the delegation needs, and I wish you every success. You will also be a member of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

As I believe you know, I shall be announcing your appointment today by means of a written Parliamentary Question.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, MBE, JP.

similar letter to
Sir Russell Johnston MP
Peter Hardy MP
William Garrett MP
Donald Coleman MP
Earl of Kinnoull
Dame Peggy Fenner MP
William Shelton MP
Keith Speed MP
John Wilkinson MP
John Stokes MP
Michael Morris MP
Toby Jessel MP
Dame Jill Knight MP
S James Hill MP
Sir Dudley Smith MP

2a

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

20 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Monday 23 November and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Mark Addison

Sir Dudley Smith, M.P.

similar letter
to Robert Parry MP

(2b)

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

20 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Monday 23 November and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Mark Addison

Tom Cox, Esq., M.P.

SRM

similar letter to
Lord Mackie of Benshie
Lord Rodney
Lord Newall
Michael Lord MP
Andrew Bowden MP
Tim Rathbone MP
Roger Gale MP
Ralph Howell MP
J Allan Stewart MP
David Atkinson MP

MJ2 3000

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

20 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Monday 23 November and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Mark Addison

similar letter to
Lord Kirkhill
David Lambie MP
Harry Ewing MP
Joan Ruddock MP
Andrew Faulds MP
Martin Redmond MP
Robert Litherland MP
John Thompson MP

MT2B0

16

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 November 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Monday 23 November and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Mark Addison

CR – pa

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mark

Yr when you send the letters:

All Government & Liberals are continuing in their present capacities as members or substitutes:

For Labour:

Hardy, Coleman & Garrett continue as members;
Cox & Parry become members (having been substitutes)
All the substitutes are new for Labour.

I have sent a copy to Sir Geoffrey – having kept him in touch too! – the PM may want to send him a personal note. (Copy of last one attached).

Colin 19/11

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 July 1987

Dear Geoffrey,

I am very pleased that you are willing to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It is vital that our delegation should, as in the past, have strong and effective leadership and you are very well qualified to provide it. I wish you every success in your task. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

As you know, I will be announcing your appointment today by means of a Written Parliamentary Answer.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Dear Mark,

19 November 1987

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN UNION DELEGATION

Following discussions through the usual channels I am now able to submit to you for the Prime Minister's approval the list of proposed Members of the United Kingdom delegation.

Attached is the draft answer, and also draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to the delegation Secretary, Liam Laurence-Smyth.

Yours ever.

Colin

C A H PHILLIPS

M Addison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 September 1987

Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Mark Addison about expenses for UK delegates to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. The Prime Minister has asked whether we should send a further reply to Mr. Woodall. Could you please let me know if we should, and if necessary let me have a short draft.

I am copying this letter to Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

P. A. BEARPARK

Miss Sarah Straight,
Chief Whip's Office

CF PPS PM

R2519

Prime Minister 2

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Mark Addison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Good news

25 September 1987

Do we need to say anything to Mr Woodall?

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your further letter of 24 August about expenses for UK delegates to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. I have consulted the Foreign Office again and the House authorities and it seems that matters have moved on.

The purpose of the existing rule, which precludes the payment of expenses, was designed to deal with the situation where delegates ceased to be Members of Parliament as the result of a general election but continued to participate in the work of the Assemblies.

The re-appointment of delegates in July following a general election created a new situation where some former Members of Parliament were specifically re-appointed. In these unique circumstances, the Clerk of the House as Accounting Officer has now ruled that expense claims from delegates in this position may be entertained in respect of the plenary Session of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Mr Alec Woodall falls into this category and I understand his claim is being given due consideration.

A copy of this letter goes to Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours ever

SARAH STRAIGHT
Assistant Private Secretary

EURO POL : Memb of UK Del.
Ap 1981

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 August 1987

The Prime Minister has seen the correspondence from Alec Woodall about expenses for UK delegates attending meetings of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. She has also seen my reply to Mr. Woodall of 18 August.

The Prime Minister has asked whether it is the rules which preclude expenses being paid or the customary practice. If it is the former she would like to know who lays down those rules. If it is a question of practice, she has asked whether that might be changed. She has in mind that no private individual could be expected to meet the expense themselves.

I should be grateful for a note setting out the background to the current rules and practice on these expenses, and on the scope for providing some assistance for private individuals.

I am sending a copy of this to Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

(MARK ADDISON)

Miss Sarah Straight,
~~Department of Transport~~.
CWO

KLE

DA
CC FCO
AH

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 August 1987

Dear Tony

Thank you for your letter of 29 July. I am sorry that you have decided to resign from the Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe and the WEU. Your valuable and constructive work in the Assemblies of both organisations has been much appreciated and will be missed.

I was grateful for your thoughts on the Council of Europe. I agree that we must try to forge stronger links with the non-socialist parties of Western Europe. I am sorry that we will no longer be able to draw on your talents for this important task.

I am glad, however, that you will continue to take an interest in Council of Europe and WEU matters at Westminster. Your experience and expertise is, I know, much valued in the House.

Yours ever

Margaret

DA

Sir Anthony Grant, M.P.

10 DOWNING STREET

(4)

Prime Minister.

To note only. I said I would draw this correspondence to your attention.

MEA 19/8

1. 2. the rules which preclude expenses?

On the practice?

If the farmer - what rules?

If the seller - can't be charged.

No private person could possibly afford these expenses now

file Alec
cc Chief Whip
FW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 August 1987

Thank you for your letter of 31 July following your re-appointment as a substitute delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Western European Union.

The appointment of representatives and substitutes is made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of the parties concerned. The Labour Party nominated all the existing delegates for re-appointment, whether or not they continued to be Members of Parliament. On expenses, I note what you say about the practice in other countries. However, the existing long established rules and practice preclude the cost of travel and subsistence being paid from public funds to former Members of the House of Commons who continue to participate in the work of the Assemblies.

I am sorry I cannot be of more help. I will, as you ask, ensure that the Prime Minister is aware of your concerns.

MARK ADDISON

Alec Woodall, Esq.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

From the Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

14 August 1987

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 10 August enclosing one from Alec Woodall following his re-appointment as substitute delegate to the Council of Europe and the WEU.

I attach a draft reply for you to send which, I hope, is self-explanatory. I have discussed this and cleared the draft with Lyn Parker (Foreign Office) to whom a copy of this letter and attachment goes.

yours ever

SARAH STRAIGHT
Assistant Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY MARK ADDISON TO ALEC WOODALL ESQ

Thank you for your letter of 31 July following your re-appointment as a substitute delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Western European Union.

The appointment of representatives and substitutes is made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of the parties concerned. The Labour Party nominated all the existing delegates for re-appointment, whether or not they continued to be Members of Parliament. ~~I understand that Labour Party nominations are normally the subject of a ballot but that on this occasion there was insufficient time to hold such a ballot before the recess.~~

On ~~the question of~~ expenses, I note what you say about the practice in other countries. However, ~~our present~~ the existing long established rules and practice preclude the cost of travel and subsistance being paid from public funds to former Members of the House of Commons who continue to participate in the work of the Assemblies.

[I am sorry I cannot be of more help. ~~on this occasion~~]

I will, as you ask, ensure the PM is aware of your concerns.

Alec WOODALL

248

ECL

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 August 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Alec Woodall of 2 Grove Terrace, Hemsworth, Nr. Pontefract.

I should be grateful for your advice together with a draft reply which I might send to Mr. Woodall. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Monday 24 August.

(Mark Addison)

Murdo Maclean, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

Spoke C.W.O.
C.W. on leave but office will raise with Murdo. Derek 11/8.

LC

I'll ask the CWO
- Murdo is punishable -
if they think this script
letter hits the right
tone. The CWO himself
will need to be consulted
I think. MGR 11/8.

BF.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 August 1987

R10/8

Dear Mark,

at flap.

Charles Powell wrote to me on 3 August enclosing a letter from Sir Anthony Grant MP.

I attach a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature. You will recall that Sir Anthony's name was among those considered to succeed Sir Frederic Bennett as leader of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the WEU.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

EURO POL. Memt of C & E re WCH
April 81

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Reference

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

Enclosures flag(s) .....

TO:

Sir Anthony Grant MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

DRAFT

Copies to:

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 29 July. I am sorry that you have decided to resign from the Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe and the WEU. Your valuable and constructive work in the Assemblies of both organisations has been much appreciated and will be missed.

I was grateful for your thoughts on the Council of Europe. I agree that we must try to forge stronger links with the non-socialist parties of Western Europe. I am sorry that we will no longer be able to draw on your talents for this important task.

I am glad, however, that you will continue to take an interest in Council of Europe and WEU matters at Westminster. Your experience and expertise is, I know, much valued in the House.

EURO POL: Members of Cof Europe & WEU.
April 81

R 10/8

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 August 1987

CR
Never dig fall us!
PL send 15 MM (any)
Jadine.

Dear Mark,

Letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Alec Woodall

Thank you for your letter of 4 August enclosing a letter from Mr Alec Woodall about his appointment as a substitute member of the UK Parliamentary delegation for the Council of Europe and Western European Union, and about the question of reimbursement of expenses arising from his commitments as a member of the delegation.

I think both these matters are for the Whip's office rather than the FCO. The decision to reappoint the Labour delegation was taken in consultation with Opposition whips. The question of reimbursement of expenses is also a matter for the House authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

Alec WOODALL
18/8

file DS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Aec/

4 August 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Alec Woodall of 2 Brove Terrace, Hemsworth, Nr. Pontefract, WF9 4BQ.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Tuesday 18 August.

M E ADDISON

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

VO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

3 August 1987

From the Private Secretary

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Anthony Grant, M.P., about the Council of Europe. I should be grateful for a draft reply by 11 August.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Not Appts

Alec Woodall,
2 Grove Terrace,
HEMSWORTH,
Nr Pontefract
WF9 4BQ

31st July 1987.

Dear Mark Addison,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th July to tell me that the Prime Minister has announced my appointment as a Substitute Member for UK Parliament to the Council of Europe and Western European Union.

I am sure the Prime Minister is aware that as I am no longer a Member of Parliament I cannot claim any expenses for attending any meetings of either body. If I wish to attend I have to pay my own way. But is she aware that UK is the only nation of the 21 Member States who do not pay their representatives once they cease to be MPs?

Last week I attended a meeting of the Budgetary Affairs Committee of W.E.U. held in Paris. I decided to attend after receiving notice from the Chairmen of the Committee pointing out that attendance was vital to ensure a quorum in order to approve the 1987 Budget and thereby discharge the Secretary General of W.E.U. of financial responsibility - we just had a quorum later supplemented by one late arrival. I attended as I thought I was obliged to fulfil the duty

EC POL
UK DELEGATION 4/11

put upon me by the Prime Minister's appointment and ensure that the WEU Budget was approved otherwise WEU would have had to go cap in a shoe string. I hope you will convey this to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

Alec Woodall

P.S. There may be other important meetings in the programme requiring UK attendance. I do know there are such meetings in September and also the plenary session of CofE 1-8 October whether I will attend or not I haven't decided yet.

From: J. ALLAN STEWART, M.P.

Not Appointments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30 July 1987

2 letter. 1 air flap 1 with GP for reply

Mr Allan Stewart, MP, acknowledges your letter of 23 July, and wishes to thank the Prime Minister for the appointment.

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing street

SIR ANTHONY GRANT M.P.,

29th. July 1987

Dear Margaret

You appointed me to the Council of Europe and WEU over 10 years ago for which I am deeply grateful. Now that there is a change of leadership I think it appropriate for me to resign. This will be better for Geoffrey Finsberg, who I sincerely wish well, and for my own self-respect.

I leave with sadness because I have made many friends, of all political persuasions, in the 21 countries. I was elected Chairman of the Economic and Development Committee after a keenly fought contest and was re-elected for four years by acclamation. I have deputised for Freddy Bennett on several occasions. I have been particularly keen that WEU should play a more prominent role and have spoken on this in the House. I shall continue to take an interest in both organisations from Westminster. May I take this opportunity to express a few thoughts based on my experience over the years ?

1. The Council of Europe is sometimes regarded as a 'sideshow' and is confused with the European Parliament. I believe it is important and fulfills functions that the European Parliament cannot. It is the largest ENTIRELY democratic forum in the world. Unlike the EEC it is made up of NATIONAL Parliamentarians more closely in touch both with their governments and with the 'grass roots' than MEPs. It involves many nations outside the EEC - some closer to the Eastern bloc geographically and politically.

2. The British team, in poor shape when I joined, has done much useful work under Freddy Bennett's leadership. We have played important parts on issues like Afghanistan, Poland, Northern Ireland, and, of course, the Falklands. We have paved the way for the return of Spain, Portugal, and Turkey to democratic Europe. In WEU we have reinforced NATO and forged closer links with France on Defence.

3. The British, through command of language and Parliamentary procedure, tend to lead in both the Council of Europe and WEU. Sometimes our verbosity, insularity, and obsession with our own Parliamentary methods cause resentment among our partners.

4. Having devoted much time, quite rightly, to the retention of Turkey in the Council we have possibly neglected wider, more important work. The major task in the future must be to unite non-Socialist Parliamentarians in the larger Europe. This overrides the minutiae of wording in reports and in debate. A broad consensus against the Left is what we must achieve. Socialist unity internationally is more formidable than ours.

5. In this context we need urgently to build bridges with Christian Democrats, with those Liberals who, unlike British Liberals, are as 'Tory' as you and me, and with the Non-Escrit. We should be closer to colleagues in the European Parliament. I recently spent a most interesting few days with my MEP, Fred Catherwood, in Strasbourg. I doubt whether many of our Council of Europe team have done likewise. We need to re-establish close relations with the Germans, with the non-Socialist Greeks, and with Social Democrats of Portugal. We must heed the different views of our Scandinavian colleagues. We must do much more listening and much less talking !

I apologise for the length of this letter but these are matters on which I have felt strongly for some time. I want both organisations to survive and thrive. I want to advance the cause of European unity. The battle is against Socialism and in this you know that you have my total personal support.

Rt.Hon.Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street, SW1

EUROPOL: Council of Europe/WGII: Apr 87

Roger Gale, M.P.

House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA
01-219 4343 (messages)
01-219 4021 (secretary)
Thanet 221233

APPOINTMENTS/CF

NOT APPTS
CF? PPS?

R 28/7

25 July, 1987.

Mark Addison, Esq.,
Private Office,
10 Downing Street,
London,
SW1A 2AA.

MGA

Dear Mark,

Very many thanks for your letter of the ~~23rd~~ 24th July.

I am most grateful to you for letting me have formal confirmation of this appointment.

With my best wishes.
Yours sincerely,

ROGER GALE MP
NORTH THANET

EUROPOL : Council of Europe Apr 81

file

DG
CCCWO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 July 1987

Dear Geoffrey,

I am very pleased that you are willing to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It is vital that our delegation should, as in the past, have strong and effective leadership and you are very well qualified to provide it. I wish you every success in your task. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

As you know, I will be announcing your appointment today by means of a Written Parliamentary Answer.

Yours ever

Margaret

OA

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

CF 2

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Prime Minister
Content with the answer below?

(The Conservative Members have all been told.)
N.L.W.
23.7

Dear Mark,

23 July 1987

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN UNION DELEGATION

Following discussions through the usual channels I am now able to submit to you for the Prime Minister's approval the list of proposed Members of the United Kingdom delegation.

Attached is the draft answer, and also draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to the delegation secretary, Clive Bennett.

Yours ever,

C A H PHILLIPS

M Addison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Agreed MS

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 1st to 8th October. The delegation from the United Kingdom this year will consist of twelve Members of the Conservative Party, five Members of the Labour Party and one Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Sir G Finsberg), who will act as leader.

The Hon Members for:

Warwick and Leamington (Sir D Smith)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill) (Government Whip)
Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame J Knight)
Twickenham (Mr T Jessel)
Northampton South (Mr M Morris)
Halesowen & Stourbridge (Mr J Stokes)
Ruislip-Northwood (Mr J Wilkinson)
Ashford (Mr K Speed)
Streatham (Mr W Shelton)
Medway (Dame P Fenner)
and the Earl of Kinnoull

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

Neath (Mr Coleman)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Wentworth (Mr Hardy)
Lord Hughes and Dr Maurice Miller

Representatives from the Liberal Party will be:

The Hon Member for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber (Sir Russell Johnston)

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches -

The hon members for, Bournemouth East (Mr I) Atkinson, Eastwood (Mr J A Stewart, North Norfolk (Mr R Howell), Thanet North (Mr R Gale), Lewes (Mr J R Rathbone), Brighton Kemptown (Mr A Bowden), Suffolk Central (Mr M Lord), Lord Newall and Lord Rodney.

From the Labour Party

The Right Hon Member for Glasgow, Govan (Mr Millan), the Hon Members for Tooting (Mr Cox) and Liverpool, Riverside (Mr Parry), the Right Hon Reginald Freeson, Mr Robert Brown, Mr Robert Edwards, Mr Michael McGuire and Mr Alex Woodall

From the Liberal Party

The Lord Mackie

DRAFT LETTER TO:

all new Members
and all existing Members []

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing [to continue] to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Pariamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

New Substitute Members
and all existing substitutes [ ]

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

hle. EL3CCV

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 July 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(MARK ADDISON)

David Atkinson, Esq., M.P.

Identical letters to: Allan Stewart Esq MP
Ralph Howell Esq MP
Roger Gale Esq MP
Tim Rathbone Esq MP
Andrew Bowden Esq MBE MP
Michael Lord Esq MP

hle

EL3CCV

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 July 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(MARK ADDISON)

The Lord Newall

Identical letters to: The Lord Rodney
The Rt Hon Bruce Millan MP
Tom Cox Esq MP
Robert Parry Esq MP
The Rt. Hon. Reginald Freeson
Robert Brown Esq
Robert Edwards Esq
Michael McGuire Esq
Alec Woodall Esq
The Lord Mackie of Benshie CBE DSO DFC

FILE
DA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(M.E. ADDISON)

Letters sent to:

Michael Morris, Esq., MP
John Stokes, Esq., MP
Keith Speed, Esq., RD MP
William Shelton, Esq., MP
Dame Peggy Fenner, DBE MP
Sir Russell Johnston, MP

FILE
DA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(M.E. ADDISON)

Letters sent to:

Sir Dudley Smith MP
S.J.A. Hill, Esq., MP
Dame Jill Knight, DBE MP
Toby Jessel, Esq., MP
John Wilkinson, Esq., MP
The Earl of Kinnoull
D.R. Coleman, Esq., CBE MP
W.E. Garrett, Esq., MP
Peter Hardy, Esq., MP
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Hughes CBE DL
Dr. Maurice Miller

DRAFT LETTER TO:

all new Members
and all existing Members []

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing [to continue] to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Pariamentary Written Answer [~~tomorrow~~ today] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 1st to 8th October. The delegation from the United Kingdom this year will consist of twelve Members of the Conservative Party, five Members of the Labour Party and one Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be: ? formal letter to Sir G for PM?

The Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Sir G Finsberg), who will act as leader.

Members

~~The~~ Hon Members for:

* Warwick and Leamington (Sir D Smith)
* Southampton, Test (Mr Hill) (Government Whip)
* Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame J Knight)
* Twickenham (Mr T Jessel)
Northampton South (Mr M Morris)
Halesowen & Stourbridge (Mr J Stokes)
* Ruislip-Northwood (Mr J Wilkinson)
Ashford (Mr K Speed)
Streatham (Mr W Shelton)
Medway (Dame P Fenner)
* and the Earl of Kinnoull

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

* Neath (Mr Coleman)
* Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
* Wentworth (Mr Hardy)
* Lord Hughes and * Dr Maurice Miller (? send letter c/o PLP, H/C)

Representatives from the Liberal Party will be:

The Hon Member for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber (Sir Russell Johnston)

* current, continuing appointments.

· Substitutes

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches -

The hon members for, Bournemouth East (Mr I) Atkinson, Eastwood (Mr J A Stewart, North Norfolk (Mr R Howell), Thanet North (Mr R Gale), Lewes (Mr J R Rathbone), Brighton Kemptown (Mr A Bowden), Suffolk Central (Mr M Lord), Lord Newall* and Lord Rodney*.

From the Labour Party (* all of them)

The Right Hon Member for Glasgow, Govan (Mr Millan), the Hon Members for Tooting (Mr Cox) and Liverpool, Riverside (Mr Parry), the Right Hon Reginald Freeson, Mr Robert Brown, Mr Robert Edwards, Mr Michael McGuire and Mr Alex Woodall (? C/o PLP, HC)

From the Liberal Party

The Lord Mackie*

*

K23CCV

DRAFT LETTER TO:

New Substitute Members
and all existing substitutes [ ]

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing [to continue] to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer ~~[tomorrow]~~ today and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

file DAS
DASAKW
cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 July 1987

Nigel Wicks wrote to you on 20 July to record the Prime Minister's discussion with senior colleagues about the appointment of the Chairmen of the United Kingdom Parliamentary Delegations to the WEU/Council of Europe and to the North Atlantic Assembly.

The Prime Minister had some further discussion of the former appointment with the Foreign Secretary this morning, as a result of which she confirmed her earlier decision to appoint Sir Geoffrey Finsberg.

I am copying this letter to Mike Eland (Lord President's Office), Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

C D POWELL

Murdo Maclean, Esq.
Chief Whip's Office

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

FILE
DA

SUBJECT cc MASTER

Meeting record.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

20 July 1987

Dear Murdo,

The Prime Minister discussed with the Lord President, Lord Privy Seal and Chief Whip this morning the appointment of the Chairmen of the UK delegations to the WEU/Council of Europe and to the North Atlantic Assembly.

After some discussion it was agreed that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith should be invited to become Chairman of the UK delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly.

The Prime Minister said that Sir Geoffrey Finsberg's record of service to the Government and to the Conservative Party made him the clear candidate for the appointment of Chairman of the UK delegation to the WEU/Council of Europe, and after some discussion it was agreed that he should be appointed to this post. The Prime Minister said that before Sir Geoffrey Finsberg was approached, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be given the opportunity to comment further. I should be grateful if Lyn Parker in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office , to whom I am copying this letter, could let the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary know of the outcome of the discussion and let us know whether he will wish to discuss the matter further with the Prime Minister.

BF

I am not sure whether either of these appointments is announced by No.10. If so, could you please let me have a suitable draft of an announcement.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mike Eland (Lord President's Office), Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office), and Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours sincerely,
Nigel Wicks

(N.L. WICKS)

Murdo Maclean, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

JANICE

FCO rang to say the letter can go.

I took it up to CDP to ask for a suitably worded first para and he said he was sure the PM had replied to that letter. He asked if we could ring Sir F. Bennett's office to see if he had had a reply. This was late on Friday pm so I did not ring then.

I am sure you checked the 3rd carbons for July but I did again and no trace. Could Political have done it? Anyway, leave it with you to chase this one.

Vanessa

19 9 87

Janice

I don't think the letter will do anymore CR

Charles

I cannot get hold of Sir F. Bennett's office: and Pol. Off. say they have no trace.

Shall we send 'another' letter to Sir F just in case?

JR 21/9

20.7.87

SIR FREDERIC BENNETT

The Foreign Office have queried why they received no copy of our reply to the above.

The reason is simple - it wasn't typed!

Having got on to a C/F file, I fear we were unable to keep an eye on things.

I have asked the FCO (girls) to get the original draft (at flap) checked to see whether it should be updated. When they come back to us, we shall need to inform CDP of the error and send a suitably worded first para to Sir Fred, apologising.

JR
18 9 87

BU 15/7 - NSA in Reminders
Vanished!

R2017

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 July 1987

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letters of 23 June and 1 July enclosing correspondence from Mr John Stokes MP and Sir Frederic Bennett to the Prime Minister about the next leader of our Parliamentary Delegation to the WEU and Council of Europe Assembly.

The selection of both the Delegation and its leader is first and foremost in the hands of the Party Whips. The Secretary of State proposes having a word with Mr Waddington about the sort of considerations which he would like taken into account in considering possible membership of the new delegation. As for the leadership, the Foreign Secretary considers that the best candidate to follow Sir Frederic as Delegation leader would be Sir Anthony Grant, but he would have no objection if colleagues preferred Sir Dudley Smith.

I enclose draft replies from the Prime Minister to both the letters she has recently received.

I am copying this letter to Murdo Maclean in the Chief Whip's Office.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
The Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:
TEL. NO:
BUILDING:
ROOM NO:

Reference
JONAJJ(4)

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

Enclosures flag(s) .....

TO:

Sir Frederic Bennett
No 2 Stone Buildings
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3XB

Copies to:

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter and enclosure of 24 June with your kind words about our election victory. I was grateful for these and for your earlier thoughtfulness in sending me the telegram of good wishes from our colleagues in WEU.

I much welcome your advice and recommendations on the question of your successor to the leadership of the Delegation to the WEU and Council of Europe Assemblies. I cannot of course at this stage give any promises: not only will the eventual decision have to be negotiated through the usual channels, but we have first to decide on the new make-up of the delegation as a whole in view of the changes resulting from the Election. I can nevertheless assure you that your views will be taken into account.

PRO

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you on your retirement for your unflagging work both in the international field and elsewhere on our behalf. Under your tutelage, we have been able in debate in international fora to get across our views on issues of vital importance to us. And we have been able to strengthen our relations with our European and North American allies. I hope this process will continue.

I have sent the memorandum attached to your letter to ~~John~~ David Waddington.

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Wicks

CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND TO THE WEU/ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

Sir Frederic Bennett has written to you about the succession to him as leader of our national delegation to the Council of Europe. He identifies three candidates: Dudley Smith, Anthony Grant and Geoffrey Finsberg. He argues very strongly for Dudley Smith. We have consulted the Chief Whip and the Foreign Secretary both of whom favour Anthony Grant. You have expressed a strong view in favour of Geoffrey Finsberg. I think the matter ought to be discussed at a meeting of colleagues. You might like to do this at the regular meeting next Monday.

But there are also two candidates for the post of chairmanship of our delegation to the WEU/Atlantic Assembly viz. Geoffrey Johnson Smith and Peter Emery. The Chief Whip advises that Geoffrey Johnson Smith would be the preference of most people. You might like to discuss this also.

C.D.P.

Yes - Geoffrey Finsberg has been a loyalist and has done loyal work in helping us in other ways. Surely he has been on No. 2 —

Charles Powell
15 July 1987

MJ2BEZ

MR POWELL

CHAIRMAN OF THE UK DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND TO THE WEU/ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

The Chief Whip said that there was some urgency to decide who should be Chairman of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe since there was some meeting in Oslo in September.

The three candidates are, as you know, Geoffrey Finsberg, Anthony Grant and Dudley Smith. The Chief said that the Prime Minister's preference was for Finsburg. He understood that the Foreign Secretary did not favour Finsberg, though his reasons were unknown. His preferred candidate was Anthony Grant who also had many supporters in the House. There was a school, however, which would prefer Dudley Smith. The Chief asked whether we could expedite matters so that there was an early decision.

The two candidates for the chairmanship of our delegation to the WEU/Atlantic Assembly were Geoffrey Johnson Smith and Peter Emery. Whoever was chosen would cause offence to the other. Geoffrey Johnson Smith would be the preference of most people. I suggested to the Chief that there was a piece of relevant information which he ought to check before any final decision was made.

N.L.W.

N.L. Wicks
15 July 1987

MJ2BEX

EL3824.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 July 1987

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 24 June. She has been away in the early part of this week at the European Council and has therefore not had time to give it her full consideration yet. But she is most grateful to you for letting her have your views and will reply personally as soon as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir F. BENNETT MP

15/7

EL3B2X

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 July 1987

I enclose a further letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Frederic Bennett about his replacement as leader of our national delegation to the Council of Europe and WEU. As you will see he sets out the pros and cons of three possible candidates.

I am sure the Prime Minister would welcome the advice of the Chief Whip and the Foreign Secretary. I should be grateful if you could let me have their views to put to the Prime Minister so that she can reply to Sir Frederic Bennett.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Murdo Maclean, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

From: THE RT. HON. SIR FREDERIC BENNETT, ~~P.C.~~

No. 2, STONE BUILDINGS
LINCOLN'S INN
LONDON WC2A 3XB

Strictly Confidential. R396

24th June, 1987

Dear Prime Minister, Personal

First of all may I express my heartfelt thanks for your generous letter of April 29th which arrived at a very opportune time to help to alleviate the admitted pangs of sadness and frustration at not being able to play as active a role as I would have liked in your magnificient re-election. It was the first such passive occasion since, at the age of 8 I paraded around my father's then constituency with my younger sister, holding a banner which read "Please Vote for my Daddy"!

Even during the war I managed to get enough leave from the Army to contest what was a hopeless Socialist seat in Staffordshire. Having then no civilian clothes I was forced to fight the campaign in khaki but with my officer's epaulette insignia on my tunic obscured by sewn-on bandages to meet challenges by my Labour opponent that I was trying to win votes by "pulling rank". Some hope in the Potteries!!!

You have more than enough to do without being bored with nostalgic reminiscences; and in any case I was pleased that at the least I could obtain a telegram of good wishes to you from sympathetic political personalities in WEU from 6 allied foreign countries - a telegram for which I have already received a charmingly expressed note of appreciation from your office, copies of which I have forwarded on to all concerned. It is fair to say that right across the political spectrum in Western Europe (except only the Communists!) there were either openly or privately worded messages conveyed to me praying that in the interests of the Free World as a whole and not just of Britain you would emerge the victor!

Turning now, as suggested, to the question of my replacement as Leader of our national Delegation to the Council of Europe and WEU. I do not of course know whether it would be your wish to appoint a senior personality from outside the present, continuing, remaining team, or give first preference to someone already in it.

If the former it would of course be presumptuous for me to proffer any sort of advice at all. If the latter there are three of my

colleagues who have made it clear to me that they would like to take my place, namely Dudley Smith, Anthony Grant and Geoffrey Finsberg. All three have proved to be loyal and able colleagues, invariably supportive under my leadership of H.M.G.'s relevant policies . This of itself is I know too vague an indication to help you to come to your own unfettered decision.

So I do have to say that of these three Dudley Smith, who is already Secretary-General of the European Democratic Political Group of which I have been Chairman, ~~who~~ has proved to be not only loyal and able but truly dedicated as well in trying to maintain a pre-eminent role for Britain in the two Assemblies. It is on him that I have come most to rely when it was impossible, at some critical junctures for me to be in two places at once. Anthony Grant, who I like immensely as a personal friend and who is well respected across the Channel, has not I think I think quite the same dedication towards what are often exacting tasks when other rival commitments elsewhere appear. I think too he has his eye on promotion within the 1922 Committee where we may well need his help, I imagine, in gaining Party political support for some of the more radical reforms you now have in mind. Geoffrey Finsberg has an excellent brain especially in mastering the complicated differing procedures of Continental Assemblies in contrast to our own. However, I must in all fairness add, and regarding him too as a valued personal friend, with whom I have never had a cross word, that he has earned a reputation for being rather abrasive among foreign colleagues as well as within our own team; and I fear that his promotion to Leader could lead to resignations from an already depleted team arising from the departure on retirement of six Tory delegates, including myself, plus now the additional loss through defeat of two further staunch and energetic members of the team who will be sadly missed, John Corrie and Stefan Terlezki.

In the light of the changed situation a number of procedural and other consequences inevitably follow - but rather than bother you with these personally I am attaching a purely factual Memorandum which, perhaps if you approve, you could send on to your new Chief Whip , or which ever Whip it is who will be handling Council of Europe/WEU affairs in your new Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Freddie Bennett

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. M. Thatcher, M.P.

P.S. At the risk of boring you and therefore well realising you may have no time to read it, I am venturing to enclose the relevant paragraphs of my valedictory speech to WEU together with the response from the outgoing President, which is the second nicest tribute after your own that I have received.

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY - TUESDAY, 2nd JUNE, 1987
THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION

SIR FREDERIC BENNETT (United Kingdom) - Valedictory address:

....."I believe that Europe to-day, as a result of Mr. Gorbachev's various initiatives, is in a highly dangerous situation. His various initiatives, whatever else they have done, have so far acted as a divisive force within Europe and across the Atlantic. Whether that is deliberate, conscious or unavoidable is not for me to say but is for the future to decide. It is neither war-mongering nor anti-peace to tell the truth as I see it. For my part, at my age, I have to remember other voices and other rooms. There were many in the 1930s who were called war-mongers when they warned of the dangers ahead deriving from an imperialist Nazi power. The most costly war in history in blood and misery ensued as a result of taking at face value those who said they had no intention of in any way expanding their territorial ambitions in Europe.

We who are critical of Mr. Gorbachev's intentions are often told that we are being unreasonable and should not expect the Soviet Kremlin and Mr. Gorbachev to dismantle the whole Russian Soviet system merely to please us in the liberal pluralist democracies. We know that he will not do that and it is unreasonable to ask him to do it because it would be an act of political and economic suicide for him to undertake. None of us should expect him so to do and it would result in failure. However, those of us who are cynics are not asking that. We are not asking Mr.Gorbachev and his colleagues to alter the edonomic and important social system but simply to cease doing things that cannot be said to be an essential part of any socialist or Marxist philosophy anywhere. We are not asking him to do anything about internal policies that would be or could be regarded as intereference by him in the internal, economic, or social attitudes of another power.

We are asking simply for a few negative things. We are asking them to do things that will not harm in any way the internal structure of the Soviet Union and the political system that currently obtains there. For example, we are asking him to cease repressing freedom of all expression and outlook in the satellite states. It is not part of a Marxist creed to use military power to repress freedom of expression in other countries. We are asking him to stop financing Cuban mercenary forces dedicated, admittedly and openly, to destabilising countries in South America, Central America, South Asia and Africa.

We are also asking him to use his power to dismantle the infamous Berlin Wall, which some of us visited recently, and where 75 victims have now been scored and have been shot for trying to escape from what is described on the media and in propaganda as a Russian-dominated paradise into what is described in some sections of the media as the capitalist hell that obtains in the West. Yet these men, women and children have been shot, for no greater sin than trying to leave a situation that they find unendurable. It cannot be to condemn the political philosophy of the Soviet Union to ask it to cease doing things of a barbarity practically unexampled in history.

There is a long list, but I shall mention only one more. We are asking Mr. Gorbachev above all, to stop talking about what his intentions are, backed up by certain optimistic elements in the media. We are asking him simply to cease slaughtering and torturing Afghan peasants and people. Is that an unreasonable request if we are to believe in his credibility? We are asking really for fewer words and more deeds, and I do not think that such a demand is wrong, unreasonable or the result of a war-mongering attitude.

Let us recall one significant disarmament factor. We have enjoyed peace and security in Europe by maintaining a unique nuclear deterrent and not, as some would have us believe, by trying to match levels of conventional weapons. I want to recall some history to those here today. At the beginning of both the Second World War and the First World War the two sides had a near parity of conventional weapons and not the gross imbalance that now exists. However, that did not stop those wars. That was because there was no unique deterrent. We should be asking for a deterrence and not merely an adequate means to defend ourselves if attacked. That is because we do not want a war to happen in which we have to use our deterrent. In war, one sort of weapon can be matched against another, and to ask for a deterrent is not to request the build up of conventional forces. That past has shown that whatever we do in that context the existence of rival conventional forces does not stop wars. Indeed, the building up of conventional weapons has led in the past to the starting of wars.

It seems that once again we are in danger of losing our way, despite all the lessons of history, by concentrating our energies and efforts on improving our defence capacity if and when a war breaks out and not on maintaining a deterrent. That does not seem to be a very logical

policy to pursue.

I should like to recall that we have enjoyed a high level of peace and security in Europe. The reason for that lies in the unique nuclear deterrent that we have possessed in order to prevent wars and because the USSR, although militarily enormously powerful, has been economically weak. It has been unable out of its own resources to feed even its own people. That great power that can send people to space still has to go into the market to buy food to feed its own people.

I pose a question for all seriously to consider. Of course we must welcome what Mr. Gorbachev is doing in Russia to improve the economy, but are we all sure in our hearts that a stronger Russia will be more or less a potential danger than the economically weaker one that we face now? What lesson in history is there to justify the thought that as a great power becomes stronger it becomes more peaceably inclined?

On the other side of the equation, there is the current situation in the United States. I returned depressed from my most recent Council of Europe mission to that country. I was driven to the conclusion, although we were told from the minute that we landed in Washington until the moment that we flew away, that European security and European freedom were still fundamental requirements of American policy, that it is difficult to be absolutely sure, whether in terms of the Reykjavik summit or those that have taken place elsewhere, that these splendid declarations are necessarily to be relied upon in ten years' time rather than tomorrow or the next day.

When we talk about arming ourselves we have to think what our position will be a decade or more from now and not of our position today or tomorrow. It would be a brave man who declared himself to be absolutely sure what the attitude of the United States will be to Europe's security a decade or two decades from now. Sophisticated technology is improving the opportunitied of a large sovereign power far away to look after its own basic requirements and security without going overseas.

When I was in Washington I came to the conclusion that under the surface there was a significant element in domestic political American attitudes to an early arms control agreement that had little to do with the needs of European security and all too much to do - these are hard words but they are correct - with trying to gain a political plus for a president and a party in the wake of the Irangate scandal. An arms control

agreement would be one of the most obvious ways in which to improve the tarnished prestige of America domestically.

I cannot pretend that I leave this Assembly at the end of this sitting with a feeling of happiness about Europe. I feel that we shall have to have a complete re-appraisal of Western Europe, the heritage of Europe and the responsibilities that we shall have to take on if Europe is to look after itself, which it will have to do certainly within fifteen to twenty years, if not ten.

I remain unashamedly a cynic, but an unhappy one. For I pray that I shall be proved wrong in my cynicism. There will be no joy in being able to say in a world shattered by the same naivety that nearly destroyed us all in the free West in 1939. , "I told you so".

PRESIDENT CARO - (France) I am very happy to take the floor after Sir Frederic Bennett. I would like to tell him how pleasant it has been to work in his company and with his cooperation. With his departure the Assembly will lose a man of experience, a man well-informed, a man who is fighting for the ideas in which he believes, difficult in compromise, but always ready for common action, respecting the qualities of others, providing they respect his. This is a fundamental rule of Parliamentary life, particularly exemplary, which I want to emphasise. We will keep in mind the example he has given us and preserve I am sure the friendship which he has allowed us to forge with him in all these years, either here or at the Council of Europe. Sir Frederic will always remain one of the great politicians who has marked our Assembly."

MEMORANDUM: ON THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION OF CONTINUING CONSERVATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS:

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1) There are 18 full voting delegates to the Council of Europe and to the Western European Union Assemblies and 18 Substitutes, divided according to the percentage share of seats in Parliament.

Up to the last election we Conservatives had 12 voting seats and 9 Substsitutes, the Socialists 5 voting delegates and 8 Substitutes, and the Liberals one of each.

2) This representation if based on overall membership including Substitutes was correct; if however we are dealing , as I think the Socialists will try to insist on in the future, in regard to voting places, we were over-represented (largely because the Labour Whips as usual could not agree on ensuring that all sections of their divided political attitudes could be represented.)

3) In future therefore we ought to maintain our 21 seats, despite a slight reduction in our majority, but I feel we may have to give way to the usual claims in the Labour Party henceforth having 6 voting seats instead of 5, and 7 Substitutes instead of their present 8. We Conservatives on the other hand would then have 11 voting members and 10 Substitutes - the Liberals remaining with one voting and one Substitute member.

4) The election has resulted in a loss of 8 Conservative members, 4 of the being full voting members and 4 being Substitutes. These will all have to be replaced except only in that it maybe that we shall have to lose a full member in exchange for another Substitute.

The first opportunity for presenting the credentials of the changed delegation will be at the next Plenary Session of the Council of Europe at the end of September. Meanwhile there are enough survivors to fulfil the very few gaps in Committees which never meet in August and only infrequently in September. This means there is plenty of time to make up the new delegation providing only that the new list is published in Hansard prior to the House of Commons Rising at the end of July/beginning of August.

2 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn,
London, W.C.2.

12/6/87

My dear Margaret,

Please forgive - for this once only - my otherwise inexcusable familiarity. I do plead in extenuation the privilege of being one of the very first members of your fan-club for Prime Minister, when many, many years ago you led the British delegation to a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in the Caribbean when I was the Treasurer of the Global Executive, and you effectively dismantled a Jamaican demagogue who felt free to condemn Britain as a nasty neo-colonialist exploiter and simultaneously demand more aid!

You have been reported as deploring our Falklands victory as "Fantastic". Yet it is you that deserved that description -

PTO.

and "*******" Fantastic too!

May I venture to offer just one piece of advice, of a sincerely complimentary nature.

During the months and years ahead please never be divorced from acting not only in accordwith your own convictions but also with your own spiritual instincts! During the last eight years, it has seemed to me you have only suffered minor setbacks when you have had to listen to counsels from those less staunch than yourself.

Please do not reply to this spontaneous expression of my admiration for someone who remains ready and eager to give you support in any way open to him.

Yours ever, Theodore.

P.S. I am delaying sending this note to you until I reply to your letter of 29th understanding the cause of your delay, as I do not want you to feel you are being subjected to a deluge of letters from an ex-MP! TH.

GR's
Please type for signature

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

From the Private Secretary

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

5 May 1987

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 29 April, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Frederic Bennett.

The Chief Whip is content with your proposed draft reply and Lyn Parker, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, confirms that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is likewise content.

Yours ever,

Murdo MacLean

(Murdo MacLean)

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

The Rt. Hon. Peter Rees QC MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

cc Whips
Mr Bennet
(HoC)

Mark Addison Esq.
Private Secretary
Prime Minister's Office

5th May 1987

Dear Mark

Thank you very much for your letter. Please convey to the Prime Minister that I am delighted to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe and to the Western European Union.

I note that the Prime Minister announced the appointment on Thursday 30th April.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rees

EUR, POL: UK delegation Council of Europe: April 81.

SRWATUU File 8hw

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer tomorrow and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(MARK ADDISON)

The Right Honourable Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

SRWAOW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer tomorrow and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(MARK ADDISON)

The Right Honourable Peter Rees, Q.C., M.P.

similar letter to

~~Hon Peter Rees QC MP~~
John Corrie MP
Michael Morris MP
Christopher Murphy MP
John Stokes MP
Stefan Terlezki MP
John Ward CBE MP
Lord Newall
Lord Rodney
Rt Hon Reginald Freeson MP
Rt Hon Bruce Millan MP
Robert C Brown MP
Tom Cox MP
Robert Edwards MP
Michael McGuire MP
Robert Parry MP
Alec Woodall MP
Lord Mackie of Benshie

similar letter to

[redacted] Anthony Grant MP
Sir Paul Hawkins TD MP
SJA [redacted]ll MP
Dame Jill Knight DBE MP
Toby Jessel MP
Sir John Osborn MP
Sir John Page MP
Sir Dudley Smith MP
JAD Wilkinson MP
Earl of Kinnoull
Donald Coleman CBE JP DL MP
William Garrett MP
Peter Hardy MP
Dr Maurice Miller MP
Lord Hughes CBE
Stephen Ross MP

SRWA0V

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1987

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer tomorrow and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

(MARK ADDISON)

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MJ2 AMR

Sir F. BENNETT
6/5

aMA
FO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Frederic Bennett. As you will see, it is marked Private and Confidential. I should be grateful if you and Lyn Parker, to whom I am also copying it, would handle it with particular discretion.

One can speculate about the possible motives behind some of the comments in the letter. But, subject to the views of the Chief Whip and the Foreign Secretary, it seems best to treat it at face value and return a straightforward reply. I enclose a draft on which I would welcome comments.

Charles Powell

Murdo MacLean, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

6

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Bennett .MJ

cc Chief Whip
FCO.
MA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

29 April 1987

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Freddie,

I was very touched by your letter of 26 April, which I read this evening. I cannot stress too strongly how grateful we all are to you for your magnificent work as leader of our delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union over so many years. I am delighted that you have accepted re-appointment. And it is wonderful that your health is so much improved: that is the best news of all.

We shall, as you say, need to consider the question of the leadership of the delegation after a general election whenever that may be. Your advice will, of course, be very valuable.

I am genuinely sorry not to have been able hitherto to pay a visit to the Council during my time as Prime Minister, but I still hope to remedy this. As you know, I should like it to be for a particular occasion.

Your help in dealing with the discussion of arms control in the WEU Assembly and in dealing with possible problems over Ireland and Greece/Turkey will be as ever invaluable.

- Yours ever

Margaret

The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

8RW

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

Private and Confidential

1. CDP - Private.
2. Mr Mayor for you to consult with CDP. The announcement of the delegation will be made on Thursday. MBFF

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th April, 1987

Dear Prime Minister

In expressing my deep appreciation to you for re-appointing me as the Leader of our national Delegation to the Council of Europe and Western European Union, I am aware of course that it is highly unlikely that I shall be able to serve the full one year term which acceptance of my credentials by these two organisations normally entails. For of course as you know I am not standing for re-election in Torbay.

Naturally I feel sad having represented that constituency at Westminster without a break since 1955; after my earlier initial period as an M.P. for Reading North had come to an abrupt end, when re-distribution had shot my first horse from under me! When I took the fateful decision to retire last year it was primarily for health reasons. On the best medical advice available to me then, there was a definite risk that I should not be able to sustain a further full tenure of five years without the possibility of causing a mid-term bye-election which could always prove embarrassing to my Leader, especially in a possible eventuality of a narrow majority.

Happily by what seems now to have been a near-miracle I decided nevertheless last July to make a new, determined effort to regain my former robust good health. For the only real obstacle facing me was ridding myself of some of the symptomatic consequences and side-effects developing only in 1983, of the one serious illness in my whole life, namely contracting rheumatic fever at the age of 12, leaving me with a permanent but fortunately minor cardiac irregularity. With new medical advisers and abandoning new-fangled drugs including tranquillizers etc., but relying instead on one of the oldest remedies in the world, i.e., mild daily dosage of Digitalis, together with observing a strict dietary discipline, everything has now changed for me. I am now starting to feel as well as I always used to up to about four years ago; and I have now been given a clean bill of health, with the chronic cardiac irregularity giving me no more problems than it had previously done during my 45 year periods of service first in the Army and afterwards in active politics.

Private & Confidential

Enough then of my own past difficulties, and with gratitude both to you and to John Wakeham for having proved so understanding during the last 9 months, I now want (without of course going back on my retirement decision in regard to Torbay) to continue to support you and our Party in every field still open to me. Hence in this present context, since I am now writing to you primarily about my Council of Europe/WEU commitments I can and will continue 100% to fulfil these obligations until you form a new team after the General Election, whenever that may be. Until thereafter you form such a new team I constitutionally continue to hold my positions both in Strasbourg and Paris, even after Polling Day, albeit at my own cost so far as relevant air fares and subsistence entitlement on the other side of the Channel are concerned. Needless to add I am more than ready to make such a modest contribution in order to ensure that a senior British voice is not lacking during the interim, particularly during a time when, as I know only too well arms control debates and divisions within the Alliance, are approaching fever-pitch within both Assemblies, with minimal understanding of your statesman-like approach to these issues.

It has of course been a disappointment to our whole team that you have not managed since you took over No. 10 in 1979 to pay an official visit to Strasbourg, as have most other important heads of state or government involved, especially during an era when I would have been privileged to be your host. You would have received a tumultuous welcome, quite different from the experiences you have endured in regard to the European Parliament; as you will have, inhaenen, your local leaden, during your third term of office at No 10. !!

However I fully realise that you have already had to carry out many more important commitments at home and abroad; and at least I am happy in the knowledge that during the whole of the last eight years we have never allowed any embarrassment to arise in either Assembly, calculated to cause you troubles from our opponents at Westminster or in the media. It is indeed the source of my greatest pride, since you appointed me as Leader, that with the help of loyal and able colleagues, this should have been so.

There are still a few outstanding problems I should like to see adequately dealt with in the weeks ahead, namely to straighten out some of the confused thinking on arms control issues within the WEU Assembly and to make sure in the Council of Europe, that with a new Irish Government that an already intractable position is not inflamed by either malicious

Private and Confidential

and/or ignorant "Resolutions" even reaching the floor of the Assembly, let alone being debated there! In regard to the other principal threat to inter-European friction we must obviously do our best to try to prevent Turco-Greek hostilities becoming more inflamed at Parliamentary level, now that the respective governments seem to be adopting slightly more conciliatory atmosphere between one another. Luckily most of the Turks are members of the political group of which I am still President and I will continue to do all I can to avert a new political rise in temperature, at Strasbourg.

Before I close I should like to pay tribute through you for the support I have received throughout from my colleagues, some obviously more effective than others! Recently of course with a 1987 election probably pending, it has not been easy to keep the British presence as strong as hitherto, because obviously those M.P.s who will be standing again, have had to pay increasingly more attention to their constituency commitments, than has been the case in previous years. In the event one of the three Peers in the team, Francis Newall, I must say has been especially helpful in "filling the breach" especially in WEU in Paris. Among the M.P.s I would be less than fair if I were not to make a special mention in favour of Dudley Smith and John Corrie, who, while not neglecting their constituency engagements, have nevertheless under conditions of considerable travel stress and strain, always managed to do all that was asked of them. I am glad to say also that my own improving health has enabled me to fulfil commitments across the board, as a substitute for others who could not be present, in this same context, because John Wakeham has unfailingly made things easier for me at the Westminster end to enable me to take on these extra loads.

Yours very sincerely
Freddie.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1

P.S May I please in apologising for such a truly end-of-term report, in nearly no, emphasise with complete sincerity that during my 36 years in the Commons I have only deemed the last decade under your leadership, to be truly happy, not only claiming to be a Conservative but encouraged to be one! Thank you, Freddie

Wednesday 29 April.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

24 April 1987

CSD 24/4.
1. Charles Powell
2. Prime Minister ①

Agree that Sir Frederic Bennett should continue to serve as leader of the delegation; and the proposed membership of the delegation?

MEA 24/4

Dear Mark,

Yes

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN UNION (DELEGATION)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 4th - 8th May. Following discussions through the usual channels I am now able to submit to you for the Prime Minister's approval the proposed Membership of the United Kingdom delegation. It is hoped to give the written answer next week.

Attached is a draft written question and answer and also draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to Clive Bennett in the House of Commons who is the delegation secretary.

Yours ever,

C A H PHILLIPS

M Addison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 4th - 8th May. I have appointed 18 delegates from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The delegation this year will consist of twelve members of the Conservative Party, five members of the Labour Party and one member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The Right Honourable Member for Torbay (Sir F Bennett), who will act as leader.

The Hon Members for:

Hampstead and Highgate (Sir G Finsberg)
Cambridgeshire, South-West (Sir A Grant)
Norfolk, South-West (Sir P Hawkins)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame J Knight)
Sheffield, Hallam (Sir J Osborn)
Harrow, West (Sir J Page)
Warwick and Leamington (Sir D Smith)
Ruislip-Northwood (Mr Wilkinson) and the Earl of Kinnoull

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

The Hon Members for:

Neath (Mrs Coleman)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Wentworth (Mr Hardy)
East Kilbride (Dr Miller) and the Lord Hughes

Representatives from the Liberal Party will be:

The Hon Member for Isle of Wight (Mr Ross)

SRWATOW.

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches - The Rt Hon and Learned Member for Dover (Mr Rees) and the Hon Members for: Peter

Cunninghame, North (Mr Corrie) — John ~~Alexander~~
Northampton, South (Mr Morris) — Michael
Welwyn-Hatfield (Mr Murphy) — Christopher
Halesowen and Stourbridge (Mr Stokes) — John
Cardiff, West (Mr Terlezki) — Stefan
Poole (Mr Ward) — John
The Lord Newall and the Lord ~~Rodney~~

From the Labour party - the Right Hon Members for:

Brent, East (Mr Freeson) Reginald
Glasgow, Govan (Mr Millan) Bruce

The Hon Members for:
Newcastle Upon Tyne, North (Mr Brown) Robert Crafton
Tooting (Mr Cox) Tom
Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr Edwards) ~~G~~ Robert.
Makerfield (Mr McGuire) Michael
Liverpool, Riverside (Mr Parry) Robert
Hemsworth (Mr Woodall) Alec

From the Liberal party - the Lord Mackie

SRWAUU

29/4/87

DRAFT LETTER TO:

Sir Frederic Bennett MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

all full members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

DRAFT LETTER TO:

SRWAUW

substitute Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

MT2 CQO

apc

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 December 1986

From the Private Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 3 December about the possibility of the Prime Minister addressing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. I should be grateful if you could tell Sir Frederic Bennett that the matter is still under consideration but that it has not yet been possible to reach a decision on timing.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister
I think that it would be unwise to commit yourself to a speech in Strasbourg. Agree to say no?
CDP 3/12

Reject

CRC
(1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 December 1986

Dear Charles,

In your letter of 19 May (copy attached) you said that the Prime Minister had told Sir Frederic Bennett, Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe and WEU Parliamentary Assemblies, that she was ready in principle to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The timing was, however, left open.

At a recent meeting, Sir Frederic Bennett raised with Lady Young the possibility of the Prime Minister attending the Parliamentary Assembly Session from 4-8 May 1987. He said it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep open a slot for this Session and wondered if the Prime Minister were likely to be available to attend.

We see no strong reason why the Prime Minister should address the Assembly in May, unless she is herself inclined to do so. Sir Geoffrey Howe attended the opening of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers meeting in Strasbourg in November, and participated in a Colloquy with representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly. If the Prime Minister agrees, I suggest we tell Sir Frederic Bennett that the matter is still under consideration, but that it has not yet been possible to take a decision on timing.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

(W9)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 May 1986

Dear Colin.

The Prime Minister had a meeting this afternoon with the British Conservative Delegation to the Council of Europe.

The Prime Minister complimented the members of the delegation on their success in influencing both the Council of Europe and the Western European Union Assemblies. She referred in particular to their achievements in securing the Vice Presidency of the Council of Europe for Turkey and in averting a full debate on the new Ireland Forum.

Sir Frederic Bennett reverted to the question of a visit by the Prime Minister to Strasbourg. She was now the only major West European Head of Government not to have addressed the Council of Europe Assembly. He recognised that it would not be possible for the Prime Minister to do so later this year while the United Kingdom held the presidency of the European Community. But he hoped that a date could be found in 1987. The Prime Minister confirmed that she was ready in principle to address the Assembly. She would reflect further on the timing and let Sir Frederic Bennett know her conclusion. It was clear that a major speech was required dealing with topical issues.

A number of members of the delegation expressed concern about HMG's attitude to the Western European Union. While some months ago it seemed that fresh impetus was to be given to the WEU, this had tailed off recently. As a result there was disillusion among the members of the WEU Assembly. The Government should clarify its position. It was also noted that no Secretary of State for Defence had yet addressed the WEU Assembly. The Prime Minister said that she would encourage Mr Younger to rectify this omission.

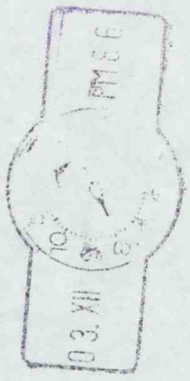
I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

WRR 0026/2
21 MAY 1986
DEF WORLD
INDEX PA

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office


03. XII

CCPC

cc? Political.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-930 7022

MO 13/4E

19 June 1986

CDD
24/6.

Dear Charles,

The Defence Secretary has seen your letter of 19th May to Colin Budd on the Prime Minister's meeting with the British Conservative delegation to the Council of Europe.

Mr Younger has noted the suggestion that he should address the Western European Union Assembly. Unfortunately the dates of the next assembly overlap with those for the biannual Eurogroup and DPC meeting of NATO Defence Ministers. But we shall pursue with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the possibility of one of the Ministers of State here addressing the assembly in December in Mr Younger's stead.

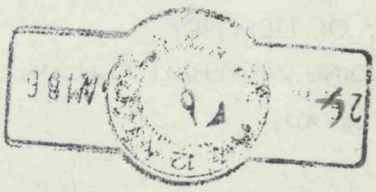
Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Wright

(J S WRIGHT)

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

European Policy: membership of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe and Western European Union.
April 1981



PRS

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

R2415

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Private and Confidential

21st May, 1986

My dear Prime Minister

All my colleagues whom you entertained for drinks and the most useful exchange of views - from our point of view at least - have suggested that I write to you while the memory of what took place is fresh in our minds; not only saying a heartfelt thank-you to you for receiving us so graciously, but also putting on record the principal points raised together in the context of both the Council of Europe and Western European Union. Although our primary concern was of course to be recognised by you in person, as a collective entity, doing a job which we all like, but which inevitably distances us to some extent from the main stream of politics at Westminster, we all also found very helpful your opening up discussion to include some domestic controversial issues as well as our own existence as a single entity at Strasbourg and in Paris - with never one instance of voting other than all together on political economic and social matters deemed to be in the national interest (after consulting British Ministers here) has been 100%! with no desertions to the Opposition, not even abstentions! This fact we appreciate does not directly produce an equally positive comprehensive attitude at Westminster among our Members. Yet there is a useful spin-off; in that those of us who vote together as a team in the Council of Europe and Western European Union tend to adopt the same collective attitude at Westminster - the Sunday Trading Bill being unhappily a single exception*! Incidentally in the context of the British Leyland issue which was briefly mentioned last night, I enclose a copy of two relevant Motions, sponsored by myself, supported by other members of your team, in an effort to support you in what was undoubtedly the right decision in the first place.

* not entirely unjustly

Now if I may turn to our Continental activities, I do enclose, as promised a copy of past appearances by Heads of State and Government in Strasbourg since the inception of the Council of Europe. You will note that Britain is undeniably a defaulter!

You were good enough to recognise in your own remarks that we had to be careful in furthering the aims and purposes of the EEC and its so-called Parliament not to offend or exclude the sensitivites of European non-EEC nation states - nine in all, whom we cannot expect or even hope soon to be members of the EEC. As I understand the position you will be paying a repeat visit to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament later this year, but without having hitherto accepted an invitation from an organisation of 21 Members, not 12, in the interim. Obviously if you do decide nevertheless not to come to uslater there will not be criticism expressed by your team, - Yet it would be very, very good news if you were able to give an indication that you would probably come in April 1987. I should have put forward January; but I think that you may feel this is too close to your European Parliament appearance later this year. Except for the fact that our meetings take place in the same venue, the experience of addressing the Council of Europe Assembly, from a more formal address to the European Parliament, is wholly different, and you will be amazed at the welcome you will receive as a British leader, irrespective of the nationality or the political affiliations of your audience.

Now in conclusion I turn for a moment to WEU about which you asked us last night. The situation, quite bluntly, is that seven governments having decided in Rome in October 1984 and in Bonn in November 1984 to re-vitalise this long dormant organisation both in regard to the Council of Ministers and the Assembly; everyone concerned became very enthusiastic. Subsequently there has been some progress in the Council of Ministers, but none at all worthy of mention in regard to the Assembly. This is important because it is in WEU that HMG has received some of its strongest support for attitudes and policies pursued and adopted by our government under your Leadership - including the Falklands, SDI and most recently your support of the American Libyan action. In this context although I realise you have more than enough to read - even if you ever get to the end of this letter - I do think it worthwhile drawing to your attention the enclosed rather melancholy, but I am afraid accurate recent report in the Financial Times , and the latest declaration by our elected President Jean-Marie Caro, a madly Anglophile Frenchman of the Centre Right to whom I introduced you at the Carlton Club last autumn.

With renewed thanks for your welcome, which meant an awful lot to those who often feel isolated from matters nearer home because of the job they are doing, but who are all your "Centurians".

Yours sincerely,
Fred Peart

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. M. Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1

P.S. On re-reading this letter prior to despatch and admitting that it is already too long to deserve the full attention of someone with all your multi-fold commitments in every sphere of our national policy, I do realise that I have omitted to mention the desire expressed by several of my colleagues , endorsed by myself that in the not too distant future we should enjoy the attendance of our Defence Minister at one of the two Annual WEU Assembly meetings.

Other member-states of the Swven Nation Alliance do send full Defence Ministers to such meetings.

Michael Heseltine, to whom I frequently spoke on this subject, always dismissed my pleas rather contemptuously but I do think there is a

a new opportunity now for Britain to do no more than follow the practice of the other members of the so-called "European pillar of the Western Alliance."

Visits to the Council of Europe of Heads of Governments :

2o Mai 1954	Prime Minister	Konrad ADENAUER	Germany
26 Jan.1965	" "	J. KLAUS	Austria
4 Mai 1965	" "	G.BORG OLIVIER	Malta
3o Sept. 1965	" "	Pierre HARMEL	Belgium
25 Jan. 1966	" "	Sean LEMASS	Ireland
27 Sept. 1966	" "	J.O. KRAG	Denmark
23 Jan. 1967	" "	Harold WILSON	U.K.
15 Mai 1969	" "	M.Couve de MURVILLE	France
13 Mai 1969	" "	G. BORG OLIVIER	Malta
2 Oct. 1969	" "	J. KLAUS	Austria
25 Jan. 71	" "	Bruno KREISKY	Austria
21 Jan.1972	" "	Edward HEATH	U.K.
24 Jan. 1973	" "	A. JØRGENSEN	Denaark
5 Mai 1976	" "	Bruno KREISKY	Austria
21 Sept.1976	" "	Leo TINDEMANS	Belgium
27 Jan.1977	" "	Gaston THORN	Luxemburg
28 April 1977	" "	Mario SOARES	Portugal
25 Jan.1978	" "	Gaston THORN	Luxemburg
26 April 1978	" "	Gaston THORN	Luxembourg
27 April 1978	" "	Helmut SCHMIDT	Germany
28 Sept.1978	" "	Dom MINTOFF	Malta
31 Jan.1979	" "	Adolfo SUAREZ	Spain
1o Mai 1979	" "	Bulent ECEVIT	Turkey
21 April 198o	" "	Francisco SA CARNEIRO	Portugal
3o Sept. 198o	" "	Raymond BARRE	France
28 Sept. 1983	Prime Minister	Olof PALME	Sweden
January 1984	Felipe GONZALES	Spain, Prime Minister,	Spain

HEADS of State:

2o Oct. 1972	President Leopold SENGHOR	Senegal
6 Mai 1974	President Alain POHER	France
28 Jan.1977	President Valery GISCARD d'ESTAING	France
25 Jan. 1978	President rudolf KIRCHSCHLAEGER	Austria
8 Oct. 1979	Sa Majesté JUAN CARLOS, King of Spain.	
30 Sept. 1982	President François MITTERAND	France
26 Jan. 1983	President Karl CARSTENS	Germany
27 April 1983	President PERTINI	Italy
May 1984	President EANES ,Portugal	
September 1984	President Dr. Patrick J. Hillery,	Ireland

EURO POL – UK Delegation to
Council of Europe – 4181

SUBJECT cc MASTER.

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 May 1986

Dear Colin.

The Prime Minister had a meeting this afternoon with the British Conservative Delegation to the Council of Europe.

The Prime Minister complimented the members of the delegation on their success in influencing both the Council of Europe and the Western European Union Assemblies. She referred in particular to their achievements in securing the Vice Presidency of the Council of Europe for Turkey and in averting a full debate on the new Ireland Forum.

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I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CDP
16/5

a PC
B/UP

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 May 1986

Dear Charles,

I attach as requested a short note for the Prime Minister's use on 19 May when she meets Sir Frederic Bennett and his colleagues on the Parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe.

You will recall that the Prime Minister wrote to Sir Frederic Bennett on 10 April about the work of the UK delegations to the Council of Europe and the WEU. A copy of this letter is attached to the note.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

Prime Minister
Some current issues
at the Council of
Europe.
CDP

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Turkey

After considerable discussion and behind the scenes lobbying, in which Mr Eggar played a leading part, the Committee of Ministers decided at its meeting last month that Turkey should assume the Vice Presidency of the Council of Europe immediately. There will be a Mini Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul from 30 June - 4 July.

Terrorism

The Committee of Ministers also agreed that an ad hoc Ministerial Conference on combatting terrorism should be held before the end of 1986. The working party of officials preparing the Conference will hold its first meeting later this month.

Northern Ireland

Earlier this year, Sir Frederic Bennett was instrumental in averting a full debate on the New Ireland Forum in the Parliamentary Assembly. The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly instead adopted an unobjectionable Resolution on this issue.

Visit by Prime Minister to Strasbourg

Sir Frederic Bennett called on Sir Geoffrey Howe on 14 May to invite him to address the Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg. Sir Geoffrey Howe gave no commitment but said he would consider the proposal. Sir Frederic Bennett has several times raised the question of a visit to the Council of Europe by the Prime Minister. We have taken the line that such a visit would depend on identifying the right opportunity. Sir Frederic Bennett indicated on 14 May however that he would not be pressing the Prime Minister to visit Strasbourg for the time being.

BRITISH CONSERVATIVE DELEGATION - COUNCIL OF EUROPE

DRINKS PARTY - NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, MONDAY, 19th MAY

2195394 NSN.

Acceptances

Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

0803

Lord Newall

Earl of Kinnoull

845303

Lord Rodney

Christopher Murphy, M.P.

John Wilkinson, M.P.

John Corrie, M.P.

Michael Morris, M.P.

Dame Jill Knight, DBE, M.P.

Sir Paul Hawkins, M.P.

Sir John Osborn, M.P.

Toby Jessel, M.P.

Sir Anthony Grant, M.P.

John Ward, M.P.

Peter Rees, M.P.

Sir John Page, M.P.

James Hill, M.P.

John Stokes, M.P.

APOLOGIES

Sir Dudley Smith (In Stockholm)

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (Addressing Royal Academy)

Stefan Terlezki (in Belfast).

MR POWELL

You will be aware that Sir Frederic Bennett is bringing his colleagues on the delegation to the Council of Europe for a drink with the Prime Minister on Monday next, 19th May.

I think the Prime Minister will want to be briefed on this. May I ask you to commission a brief?

pp MICHAEL ALISON
15.5.86

Sir F. Bennett MP File SWH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1986

Sir Frederic Bennett is bringing his colleagues on the delegation to the Council of Europe for a drink with the Prime Minister on 19 May. It would be helpful to have some short briefing on current issues in the Council of Europe about which the Prime Minister should be informed. I apologise for the short notice: but it would be helpful to have this by close of play tomorrow, 16 May it at all possible.

C D POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th May, 1986

Dear Miss Hole,

Just a short note to accompany the list of the members of the Council of Europe Conservative Delgation who will be attending the drinks party given by the Prime Minister next Monday, 19th May.

Yours sincerely,

Patsy Townsend

Miss. P.A. Townsend
Personal Assistant

Miss. S. Hole,
Private Secretary to The Rt. Hon. M. Alison, M.P.
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1

BRITISH CONSERVATIVE DELEGATION - COUNCIL OF EUROPE

DRINKS PARTY - NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, MONDAY, 19th MAY

Acceptances

Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

Lord Newall

Earl of Kinnoull

Lord Rodney

Christopher Murphy, M.P.

John Wilkinson, M.P.

John Corrie, M.P.

Michael Morris, M.P.

Dame Jill Knight, DBE, M.P.

Sir Paul Hawkins, M.P.

Sir John Osborn, M.P.

Toby Jessel, M.P.

Sir Anthony Grant, M.P.

John Ward, M.P.

Peter Rees, M.P.

Sir John Page, M.P.

James Hill, M.P.

John Stokes, M.P.

APOLOGIES

Sir Dudley Smith (In Stockholm)

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (Addressing Royal Academy)

Stefan Terlezki (in Belfast).

From: Michael Morris, M.P., Northampton South

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th April, 1986

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA.

Dear Prime Minister,

I should just like to say thank you for re-appointing me as Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union.

I much appreciate this appointment and hope that I can continue to make a worthwhile contribution.

Yours ever,

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 April 1986

Dear Lord Mackie,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today.

Yours sincerely

Tim Flesher

Tim Flesher

The Lord Mackie of Benshie

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 April 1986

Dear Mr Ross

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today.

Yours sincerely

T Flesher

Tim Flesher

Stephen Ross Esq MP

WGD
S/PS
PS/Lady Young
Mr. Ralfont
RCN
ACOD
PRU

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1986

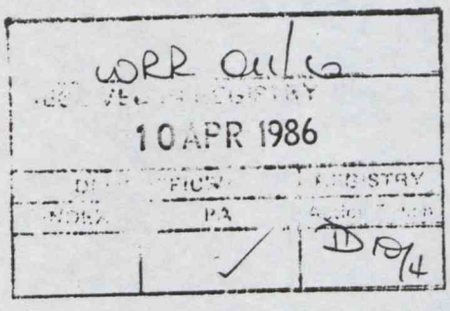
Dear Freddie,

Thank you for your letter of 26 March.

I recognise that the consultative nature of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union makes it difficult for the British delegation to influence decisively the activities of those bodies. The success you have had in containing developments unfavourable to British Government policies is the more notable. I am grateful for your determination to continue your delegation's work to protect the Government's interests and should like you and your colleagues to know the value we attach to your efforts.

Yours ever

Margaret



The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

fcie

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1984

Dear Mr Ross,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today.

Yours sincerely,

TIM FLESHER

Stephen Ross Esq MP

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1984

Dear Tom,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today.

Yours sincerely,

TIM FLESHER

Sir John Biggs-Davison MP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1984

Dear Mr Johnston,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer today.

Yours sincerely

TIM FLESHER

Russell Johnston Esq MP

Prime Minister: I agree to these changes + arranged Question?

To ask the Prime Minister what changes have been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

Full ~~Members~~ Representatives

I have appointed the honourable Member for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber (Mr Russell Johnston) in place of the honourable Member for the Isle of Wight (Mr Stephen Ross).

JR

8/11

Substitute ~~Members~~

I have appointed the honourable Member for Epping Forest (Sir John Biggs Davison) in place of the honourable Member for Norfolk North (Mr Ralph Howell), and the honourable Member for the Isle of Wight (Mr Stephen Ross) in place of the Lord McNair.

Yes pm

Wednesday 25 January 1984

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 25 January 1984)

UNSTARRED NO. Sir John Biggs-Davison
To ask the Prime Minister, what changes have been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

I have appointed as substitute Members:

The Rt Hon Member for Govan (Mr Bruce Millan)
The Rt Hon Member for Brent East (Mr Reg Freeson)
and the hon Members for
Preston (Mr Stan Thorne)
Neath (Mr Donald Coleman)
Newcastle upon Tyne North (Mr R C Brown)
Hemsworth (Mr Alec Woodall)

They replace the following substitute Members:

The Rt Hon and Learned Member for Aberavon (Mr John Morris) and
the hon Members for
Dudley West (Dr John Blackburn)
Brent South (Mr Laurie Pavitt)
Kirkcaldy (Mr Harry Gourlay)
Blackley (Mr Ken Eastham)
and the Lord Northfield.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

24th January 1984

Dear Cameron

UK Delegation to the Council of Europe and Western European Union

The Chief Whip would be grateful if the Prime Minister's agreement could be sought for a Parliamentary Question and Answer on the lines of the attached draft.
You will recall that we discussed this last night and I explained that we would wish for the question to be asked today (24th January) for answer tomorrow (25th January). I am sending a copy of this letter and its attachments to David Cairncross who acts as Secretary to the delegation.

Yours sincerely

Chilton Roberts.

(C Roberts)

The Duty Clerk
Office of the Prime Minister

DRAFT QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER BY THE PRIME MINISTER

(: to ask the Prime Minister what changes have been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

Draft Answer

I have appointed as substitute Members:

The Rt Hon Member for Govan (Mr Bruce Millan), the Rt Hon Member for Brent East (Mr Reg Freeson) and the Hon Members for

Preston (Mr Stan Thorne)
Neath (Mr Donald Coleman)
Newcastle upon Tyne North (Mr R C Brown)
Hemsworth (Mr Alec Woodall).

They replace the following substitute Members:

The Rt Hon and Learned Member for Aberavon (Mr John Morris) and the Hon Members for

Dudley West (Dr John Blackburn)
Brent South (Mr Laurie Pavitt)
Kirkcaldy (Mr Harry Gourlay)
Blackley (Mr Ken Eastham)

and the Lord Northfield.

Draft Letters to The Rt Hon Bruce Millan MP, the Rt Hon Reg Freeson MP, Stan Thorne Esq MP, Donald Coleman Esq MP, R C Brown Esq MP and Alec Woodall Esq MP.

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on 25 January and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

APPTS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 December 1983

Dear Mr Finsberg,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Wednesday 21 December and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Yours sincerely

Tim Flesher

Geoffrey Finsberg, Esq., MBE, JP, MP

Told David Cairncross, Secretary to Delegation on 29/12

NP.

Prime Minister: 1

Agree that Mr Finsberg should be appointed to the Council of Europe and WEU delegation

Yes no DT 19/12.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

19 December 1983

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

The Chief Whip has asked that the Prime Minister give consideration to replacing Mr T Urwin by Mr G Finsberg as a full member of the above delegation. - This is a change of Party?

Subject to the agreement of the Prime Minister, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the attached draft written question to be answered as soon as possible. Also attached is a draft letter for you to send to Mr Finsberg.

I am copying this to David Cairncross who acts as Secretary to the delegation.

CJRoberts.

(C J ROBERTS)

T Flesher Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Draft Letter to Mr G Finsberg

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a ~~Substitute~~ full Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a ~~substitute~~ full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on
and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

DRAFT QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER BY THE PRIME MINISTER

(: to ask the Prime Minister what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

Draft Answer

I have appointed my hon friend the Member for Hampstead and Highgate, Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, a Full Member in place of Mr Tom Urwin.

Thursday 17 November 1983

CF

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Thursday 17 November 1983)

UNSTARRED NO. 181 **Mr Hugh Dykes:**
To ask the Prime Minister, what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

I have appointed my Noble Friend, the Lord Newall a Substitute Member in place of my Rt Hon and Noble Friend the Lord Duncan-Sandys.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 November 1983

Dear Lord Newall,

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Thursday 17 November and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Yours sincerely

T. M. Flesh

The Lord Newall

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

8 November 1983

Prime Minister:

Agree to Lord Newalls appointment as a member of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe.

Yes

Dear Tim

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

We spoke last Friday about the letter the Prime Minister has received from Sir Frederic Bennett about Lord Duncan-Sandys' wish to retire from the delegation.

Attached is a copy of a letter the Chief Whip has received from Lord Denham in which he nominates Lord Newall as Lord Duncan-Sandys' successor. The Chief Whip is content with this proposal.

Subject to the agreement of the Prime Minister, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the attached draft written question to be answered as soon as possible. Also attached is a draft letter for you to send to Lord Newall.

I am copying this to David Cairncross who acts as Secretary to the delegation.

Yours ever

Peter

(P J MOORE)

T Flesher Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

JC

Comment?

OK.

From the Government Chief Whip

House of Lords

3 November 1983

My dear John,

I have seen a copy of a letter from Duncan-Sandys to Sir Freddie Bennett indicating his wish to retire from the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union.

I should like to nominate Lord Newall to succeed Lord Duncan-Sandys on the Delegation, and I should be grateful if you could take the necessary steps as soon as possible, as I understand that there is a Council of Europe meeting at the end of this month which Francis Newall is anxious to be able to attend.

Yours ever,

Bob.

DENHAM

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP

ERS Pol
UK Delegation to
Council of Europe
April 87

Draft Question for Written Answer by the Prime Minister

(: to ask the Prime Minister what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

Draft Answer

I have appointed my Noble Friend, the Lord Newall a Substitute Member in place of my Rt Hon and Noble Friend the Lord Duncan-Sandys.

E.R.

Draft letter to The Lord Newall

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the ~~Consultative~~ Party Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Party Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 November 1983

Dear Freddie,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November bearing the sad news that Duncan Sandys feels that he can no longer continue on the delegation to the Council of Europe. He has given distinguished service and I know that he will be greatly missed.

I was delighted to hear of the presentation which you are making to Duncan on 24 November. I should love to have been present but, alas, I shall be in Delhi for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, as will Michael Alison. I hope, nevertheless, that you will convey to those present on the 24th my gratitude to Duncan for all that he has done.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 November 1983

My dear Duncan,

Freddie Bennett has told me the sad news that you feel that you can no longer continue with our delegation to the Council of Europe. I was very sorry to hear this: yours has been a long and distinguished contribution to the Council from its establishment in 1949 to the present day. They will greatly miss you as will, in particular, the British delegation.

I understand that your final meeting is to be on 24 November when you will be presented with the Council of Europe Medal - richly merited, I might say. I should like to have been there but I shall be in Delhi for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. My thoughts will nevertheless be with you.

Yours ever,

Margaret

The Rt. Hon. Lord Duncan-Sandys, C.H.

GR

Copy to

P. Moore (Chief Whip's Office).

PRIME MINISTER

The attached letter from Sir Frederic Bennett records that Duncan Sandys has asked to leave the Council of Europe delegation on health grounds. Also attached are draft letters to Sir Frederic and to Duncan Sandys. I understand that the Chief Whip will be nominating Lord Newall as a replacement.

TIM FLESHER

4 November, 1983

From: Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

Personal

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

cc: MS (Cont 4/11)
Chief Whip

3rd November, 1983

Dear Margaret

Knowing of your generous sympathetic interest about Duncan Sandys continuing sad decline in health, and your kind co-operation in letting him stay on the Delegations as long as possible, I am sure you will wish to see the copy attached letter which reveals finally Duncan feels he can continue no longer and he is being replaced by another Peer.

On my last visit to Strasbourg I so informed the President privately and publicly, and he, in the open Assembly, paid a very generous tribute of which I enclose a copy, which you may also care to see.

There is also available for those, usually retiring members of particular distinction, a medallion, which, since Duncan is unable to travel to Europe again, he is to be awarded, by myself, on behalf of the President, Mr. Ahrens, who cannot come to London for the early foreseeable future, and obviously, timing is relevant.

Duncan's final meeting is to be of his beloved Cultural Committee, on November 24th, and I enclose a copy programme from which you will note that the presentation is to take place at 14.30hours. Naturally I know just how heavy is your own official programme, but it would be wonderful if you could have spared a few moments at 2.30p.m. just to see the presentation made, which I really think Duncan would appreciate even more than the medallion itself.

In regard to the latter, to end on a lighter note, there is apparently only one grade of medallion, which can be given, which is meant to be silver, I am told, but looks much more like second-rate pewter. Accordingly, on my own initiative, I have had it gold plated, without cost to H.M.G. or the Council of Europe(!) and it now looks splendid. For in a reverse context,

I do believe George Orwell's saying that "all are equal, but some are more equal than others" does apply to Duncan Sandys of night, on the European scene!

Yours very sincerely

Margaret

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. M. Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1

P.S. If, understandably, you cannot arrange to come yourself, perhaps you could consider that either your PPS or someone else came to represent you?

Margaret

HOUSE OF LORDS

27th October 1983

Dear Freddie,

It is with the greatest regret that after such a long and interesting association, ever since its beginning, with the Council of Europe, I have now to retire.

I have so enjoyed working with you and our colleagues towards this great ideal, which we all deeply feel, and I should like to thank you all.

Yours

Duncan

Duncan-Sandys

OVERSEAS OFFICE
(EUROPEAN SECTION)
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Telephone 01-219 3293

VISIT TO LONDON OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ASSEMBLY'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE ON THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

Introduction

About 12 MPs from Council of Europe countries will be in London on Thursday 24 November for a working meeting and for a presentation to Lord Duncan-Sandys of the Council of Europe Medal. They are Members of the Council of Europe Assembly's Sub-Committee on Architectural and Artistic Heritage and their Chairman is Mr Alan Beith MP. The visit is being arranged on behalf of the UK Delegation by the Delegation Secretary, Mr David Cairncross, in the Overseas Office of the House of Commons (Tel: 01-219-3293). In Strasbourg it is being arranged by the Secretary of the Sub-Committee Mr Christopher Grayson (Tel: Strasbourg 61.49.61).

Participants*

Mr Beith, Chairman	British
Mr Flanagan	Irish
Mr Aano	Norwegian
Mr Atkinson	British
Mme Catselli	Cypriot
Mr Delehedde	Francais
Lord Duncan-Sandys	British
Mr Guimon	Espagnol
Mr Gustafsson	Swedish
Mlle Lambraki	Greek
Mr Muller	German
Mlle Sampaio	Portugaise
Mr Spitella	Italien
Mr Tummers	Dutch
Mr van der Werff	Dutch
Christopher Grayson	

* List of Sub-Committee Members - attendance not yet confirmed.

Programme (provisional)

Wednesday 23 November

pm Members arrive and make their own way to their Hotels.

Thursday 24 November

c. 0945 Members arrive at St Stephen's Entrance, Houses of Parliament and proceed to the Grand Committee Room (off Westminster Hall).

1000 Working meeting of the Sub-Committee in the Grand Committee Room.

1245 Lunch given by the UK Delegation for Members of the Sub-Committee in Dining Room D, House of Commons.

1430 Presentation of Council of Europe Medal to Lord Duncan-Sandys in the [Moses Room]:

Introductory remarks by Mr Alan Beith MP, Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

Address by Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Presentation by Sir Frederic Bennett MP, Vice-President of the Council of Europe Assembly, on behalf of Mr Ahrens, President of the Assembly.

1500 Members of the Sub-Committee depart for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

1515 Tour of Royal Opera House.

1615 Free for private visits in Covent Garden area.

1830 Drinks party for Members of the Sub-Committee given by Lady Duncan-Sandys at 86 Vincent Square, London, SW1.

evening: Free.

Travel

Individual participants will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from the UK, into and out of Central London, and to and from meetings. No official vehicles will be provided. [Members will travel from the Houses of Parliament to the Royal Opera House in taxis organised by the Delegation Secretariat]. UK Delegation staff can arrange for flight tickets to be altered at the Transport Office at the House of Commons (Tel: 01-219-5605).

Accommodation

Members are making their own bookings.

Place of meetings

The working meeting of the Sub-Committee will be held in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons, off Westminster Hall. It has been booked from 2000 on Wednesday 23 November till 1600 on Thursday 24 November in the names of Members of the UK Delegation. Bookings have been made with the Serjeant-at-Arms Department (Tel: 01-219-3290 - Mr Snell) and permission for the use of simultaneous interpretation equipment has been confirmed with the Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr Cummins (Tel:01-219-3050). Access to the Grand Committee Room will be by way of St Stephen's Entrance (opposite Westminster Abbey).

Mr BLAAUW (Netherlands).- I am fully aware of the reservations felt by the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee on having not put all the amendments together. I considered that when I drafted the amendments, but I wished to split education, culture and environment from the real political questions between European countries, especially East-West relations in Europe. When we can persuade the Committee of Ministers to hold more dialogue with the Assembly, that will have a positive effect in European East-West relations.

Mr JUNG (France) said that he was not against the amendment but he felt uneasy about East-West discussions. The Council of Europe was particularly sensitive on the subject of human rights. There was no point in pretending that the countries of Eastern Europe were democracies. He agreed that there was no point in denying that geographically they belonged to Europe, but he questioned whether that meant that the Council of Europe should set up relations with them.

Mr LIED (Norway) (Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee) replied that the amendment only asked for discussion of such questions. The Committee of Ministers did indeed discuss them from time to time. He saw no harm in adding these words to the draft resolution. The committee had agreed to them at its morning meeting.

The amendment was adopted.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

5. LORD DUNCAN-SANDYS

The PRESIDENT.- Dear colleagues, I trust you will allow me to digress for one moment from our agenda in order to pay tribute on behalf of the whole Assembly to a distinguished statesman, who was hoping to be in our midst today for the last time, since he has decided to withdraw from active European politics, within the Council of Europe. But, unfortunately, he has been prevented by ill health from making the journey to Strasbourg. I refer to Lord Duncan-Sandys.

./.

As one of the organisers of the 1947 Hague Conference, as the founder of the European Movement, and as a lifelong committed European, Duncan Sandys was without any doubt instrumental in setting up the Council of Europe as such in 1949.

He was a member of the Council of Europe Assembly as early as 1950-51. Let me recall that 1951 was the year of the original Strasbourg Conference which was the first attempt by our Assembly to bring together the parliamentary representatives of Europe with their colleagues from non-European parliamentary democracies overseas. Duncan Sandys then resumed the ministerial career he had begun so brilliantly under Winston Churchill during the war. He rejoined our ranks from 1965 onwards, thus becoming one of the longest-serving statesmen in our Assembly.

Following these earlier achievements, and for more than a decade, Lord Duncan-Sandys has been the leading figure involved in defending and promoting the European architectural heritage. He became President of Europa Nostra in 1969 and was Chairman of the International Organising Committee for European Architectural Heritage Year of 1975. Since then, as the Assembly's General Rapporteur on the architectural heritage, he has worked tirelessly to encourage public interest and enthusiasm for the heritage and applied constant pressure on governments and those responsible for its protection.

Lord Duncan-Sandys will be leaving behind him many trusted friends and colleagues and our day-to-day work will sorely miss the enthusiasm and talents which he had placed at the service of the European cause for almost half a century.

On behalf of us all, I would like to ask the leader of the United Kingdom delegation, Sir Frederic Bennett, to convey to Duncan Sandys our warm good wishes for an improvement in his health and for many more years of fruitful activity.

Sir Frederic BENNETT (United Kingdom).- I have no wish to delay our proceedings, but I know that I shall be forgiven for doing so if I say that all members of the British delegation, and, I believe, all members of the Assembly will have been touched, Mr President, by your remarks. I shall convey them verbatim to Lord Duncan-Sandys without delay.

I shall also notify him of another recognition which it is hoped that you will be able to make to him yourself, if, in due course, we have the good fortune to welcome you in London. For many years Duncan Sandys served closely with me, and I with him, in the House of Commons. For several

./.

years now he has also served in the House of Lords with great distinction. I think that Lord Hughes will bear me out when I say that Duncan has become a much beloved figure in our Upper House.

Therefore, on behalf of the whole delegation I should like, once more, to express our profound gratitude for your remarks, Mr President, which I know will bring great happiness to a man who was longing, right up to the last minute, to be able to make the journey.

Lord HUGHES (United Kingdom).- I am sure that all members of the House of Lords will be very pleased to hear of the kind words that you have spoken, Mr President, about our colleague, Lord Duncan-Sandys. Sir Frederic Bennett did not exaggerate when he said that in Lord Duncan-Sandys's years as a member of the Upper House his activities have commended him to members of all parties.

6. CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

The PRESIDENT (Translation).- The next order of the day is the presentation by Mr van den Bergh of the report from the Political Affairs Committee on the CSCE Madrid meeting (Doc. 5132) and the presentation by Mr Jäger of the opinion of the Committee on Relations with European Non-Member Countries on the results of the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Doc. 5137), debate and vote on the draft resolution contained in Doc. 5132 and amendments.

The list of speakers closed at 1 pm last Thursday.

Twelve speakers have indicated a wish to speak.

May I remind members that speaking time is limited to 12 minutes for the Rapporteur and seven minutes for all other speakers.

Mr Beck, a Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair

Mr van den BERGH (Netherlands) (Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee).- It gives me great pleasure to present my report on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee. I shall be brief, as I do not want to repeat what I try to say in my report. I strongly believe that the Helsinki agreements, as concluded in the mid-1970s, were and are most important for the future of the whole continent of Europe. However, the way in which many Europeans considered the Helsinki agreements in 1975 and 1976 is different from the way in which they are considered today. The question is why.

./.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Pour Murdo

Agree this Question and Answer

26 July 1983

26/7

Dear Willie

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

Following discussions between Sir Frederic Bennett, the Leader of the United Kingdom delegation, Lord Denham and John Cope it has been agreed that changes in the Conservative representation on the delegation should be announced before the summer recess. These are wanted as soon as possible to ensure that the delegation has a full quota of representatives in time for the Assembly's part session in Strasbourg at the end of September. The changes involve an increase in the Conservative representation among Representatives to 11 which is commensurate with the Conservative Party's representation in the House of Commons.

Subject to the Prime Minister's approval, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the enclosed draft written question to be answered this week. Also attached are draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons who is the delegation secretary.

Yours ever,

Peter

(P J MOORE)

W F S Rickett Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Friday 29 July 1983

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Friday 29 July 1983)

UNSTARRED NO 297 Mr Sydney Chapman : To ask the Prime Minister what changes have been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

I have appointed my honourable friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr Wilkinson) and my honourable friend the Member for Sheffield,Hallam (Sir John Osborn) as full Members in place of Mr Percy Grieve and the right honourable Frederick Mulley.

I have also appointed my honourable friends the Members for Dudley West (Dr Blackburn), Halesowen and Stourbridge (Mr Stokes), Welwyn Hatfield (Mr Murphy), Poole (Mr Ward), Northampton South (Mr Morris), Cunninghame North (Mr Corrie) and my noble friend the Earl of Kinnoull as substitute Members in place of my honourable friend the Member for Ruislip - Northwood (Mr Wilkinson), my honourable friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Sir John Osborn), my honourable friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Durant), Sir Russell Fairgrieve, Mr Keith Stainton, Mr Ronald W Brown and Mr Ray Fletcher.

From: Sir Dudley Smith. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th April 1983

Dear Mr Rickett, 11/4

Thank you for your letter of 30th March, informing me of my re-appointment as a Full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and to Western European Union.

I was abroad when your letter arrived, but I subsequently saw the Written Answer in Hansard. I am very pleased to receive this re-appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Dudley Smith

William Rickett, Esq,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON
SW1

Euro Pol, Apr 81, Membership of Council of Europe

Prime Minister

Conf.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

29 March 1983

Dear Willie

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 25th - 29th April. Following discussions through the usual channels I am now able to submit to you for the Prime Minister's approval the proposed Membership of the United Kingdom delegation. It is hoped that the delegation's credentials can be settled this week which means, I fear, that we will need to have the written question tabled tomorrow for answer on Thursday.

Attached is a draft written question and answer and also draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons who is the delegation secretary.

Yours ever

Peter

(P J MOORE)

W F S Rickett Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 25th - 29th April. I have appointed 18 delegates from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The delegation this year will consist of Ten Members of the Conservative Party, Seven Members of the Labour Party and One Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The honourable Member for Torbay (Sir Frederic Bennett); who will act as Leader.

The honourable Members for:

Harrow Central (Sir Anthony Grant)
Solihull (Mr Grieve)
Norfolk, South West (Mr Hawkins)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill)
Edgbaston (Mrs Knight)
Harrow, West (Mr Page)
Warwick & Leamington (Sir Dudley Smith)

and the Lord Reay

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

The rt honourable Members for:

Houghton-le-Spring (Mr Urwin)
Sheffield, Park (Mr Mulley)

and the honourable Members for:

Wandsworth, Tooting (Mr Cox)
Rother Valley (Mr Hardy)
East Kilbride (Mr Miller)
Ince (Mr McGuire)

and the Lord Hughes

The Representative from the Liberal Party will be:

The honourable Member for:

Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr Beith)

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches:

The honourable Members for:

Bournemouth East (Mr Atkinson)
Norfolk, North (Mr Howell)
Aberdeenshire, West (Sir Russell Fairgrieve)
Hallam (Mr Osborn)
Ruislip Northwood (Mr Wilkinson)
Sudbury and Woodbridge (Mr Stainton)
Reading, North (Mr Durant)

and the Lord Duncan-Sandys

From the Labour Party:

The rt honourable and learned Member for Aberavon (Mr Morris)

and the honourable Members for:

Brent, South (Mr Pavitt)
Kirkcaldy (Mr Gourlay)
Wolverhampton, South East (Mr Edwards)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Manchester, Blackley (Mr Eastham)
Ilkeston (Mr Fletcher)

and the Lord Northfield

From the Liberal Party:

The Lord McNair

From the Social Democratic Party:

The honourable Member for:

Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Mr Brown)

Draft Letter to

Sir Frederic Bennett MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to
all Full Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to
all Substitute Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Thursday 31 March 1983

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Thursday 31 March 1983)

UNSTARRED NO.173 Mr John Heddle:
To ask the Prime Minister, if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 25 - 29 April.

I have appointed 18 delegates from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The delegation this year will consist of ten Members of the Conservative Party, seven Members of the Labour Party and one Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The hon Member for Torbay (Sir Frederic Bennett) who will act as Leader.

The hon Members for:
Harrow Central (Sir Anthony Grant)
Solihull (Mr Grieve)
Norfolk, South West (Sir Paul Hawkins)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill)
Edgbaston (Mrs Knight)
Harrow, West (Mr Page)
Warwick and Leamington (Sir Dudley Smith)

and the Lord Reay

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

The Rt Hon Members for:
Houghton-le-Spring (Mr Urwin)
Sheffield, Park (Mr Mulley)

and the hon Members for:
Wandsworth, Tooting (Mr Cox)
Rother Valley (Mr Hardy)
East Kilbride (Dr Miller)
Ince (Mr McGuire)

and the Lord Hughes

The Representative from the Liberal Party will be:

The hon Member for:
Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr Beith)

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches:
The hon Members for:
Bournemouth East (Mr Atkinson)
Norfolk, North (Mr Howell)
Aberdeenshire, West (Sir Russell Fairgrieve)
Hallam (Mr Osborn)
Ruislip, Northwood (Mr Wilkinson)
Sudbury and Woodbridge (Mr Stainton)
Reading, North (Mr Durant)

and the Lord Duncan-Sandys

From the Labour Party:
The Rt Hon and Learned Member for Aberavon (Mr Morris)
and the hon Members for:
Brent, South (Mr Pavitt)
Kirkcaldy (Mr Gourlay)
Wolverhampton, South East (Mr Edwards)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Manchester, Blackley (Mr Eastham)
Ilkeston (Mr Fletcher)
and the Lord Northfield

From the Liberal Party:

The Lord McNair

From the Social Democratic Party:

The hon Member for:
Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Mr Brown)

(1) Teresa: Can you arrange for these questions to be answered on Friday, please.

(2) GR: pl type the letters to Smith and Wilkinson.

WR 7/7

Prime Minister

Content to announce these changes by written answer this week?

WR 6/7

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

6th July 1982

Yes pse

Dear Willie

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

Sir Frederic Bennett, the Leader of the UK delegation, has asked for a change to be made in the designation of two Conservative Members on the delegation.

He would like Mr Dudley Smith to cease to be a Substitute and to become a full Member of the delegation; in his place Mr John Wilkinson would move from being a full Member to that of a Substitute.

The two Members concerned are content as is the Chief Whip. Subject to the Prime Minister's approval, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the enclosed draft written question to be answered this week. Also attached are two draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons, who is the Delegation Secretary.

Yours ever

Peter

(P J MOORE)

W Rickett Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Draft Question for Written Answer by the Prime Minister

(: to ask the Prime Minister what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

Draft Answer

I have appointed my hon friend, the Member for Warwick and Leamington (Mr Smith) a Full Member in place of my hon friend, the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr Wilkinson) who has become a Substitute Member.

sent 7/7

Draft letter to Dudley Smith Esq MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Friday 9 July and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

sent 7/7

Draft letter to John Wilkinson Esq MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on Friday 9 July and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Euro Pd

Prime Minister

(1)

Agree to this answer being given on Friday?

MLS 21/4

Yes

MT

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

21st April 1982

Dear Mike

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 26th - 30th April. Following discussions through the usual channels I am now able to submit to you for the Prime Minister's approval the proposed Membership of the United Kingdom delegation. It is essential that the delegations credentials are settled this week which means, I fear, that we will need to have the written question tabled tomorrow for answer on Friday.

Attached is a draft written question and answer and also draft letters for you to send to the Members concerned .

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons who is the delegation secretary.

Yours ever
Peter

(P.J. MOORE)

M.A. Pattison Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 26th - 30th April. I have appointed 18 delegates from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The delegation this year will consist of Ten Members of the Conservative Party, Seven Members of the Labour Party and One Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The honourable Member for Torbay (Sir Frederic Bennett); who will act as Leader.

The honourable Members for:

Harrow Central (Mr Grant)
Solihull (Mr Grieve)
Norfolk, South West (Mr Hawkins)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill)
Edgbaston (Mrs Knight)
Harrow, West (Mr Page)
Ruislip Northwood (Mr Wilkinson)

and the Lord Reay

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

The rt honourable Members for:

Houghton-le-Spring (Mr Urwin)
Sheffield, Park (Mr Mulley)

and the honourable Members for:

Wandsworth, Tooting (Mr Cox)
Rother Valley (Mr Hardy)
East Kilbride (Dr Miller)
Ince (Mr McGuire)

and the Lord Hughes

The Representative from the Liberal Party will be:

The honourable Member for:

Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr Beith)

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches:

The honourable Members for:

Bournemouth East (Mr Atkinson)
Norfolk, North (Mr Howell)
Aberdeenshire, West (Sir Russell Fairgrieve)
Hallam (Mr Osborn)
Warwick and Leamington (Mr Smith)
Sudbury and Woodbridge (Mr Stainton)
Reading, North (Mr Durant)

and the Lord Duncan-Sandys

From the Labour Party:

The rt honourable and learned Member for Aberavon (Mr Morris)

and the honourable Members for:

Brent, South (Mr Pavitt)
~~Neath (Mr Coleman)~~
Kirkcaldy (Mr Gourlay)
Wolverhampton, South East (Mr Edwards)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Manchester, Blackley (Mr Eastham)
Ilkeston (Mr Fletcher)

and the Lord Northfield

From the Liberal Party:

The Lord McNair

From the Social Democratic Party:

The honourable Member for:

Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Mr Brown)

Draft Letter to

all Substitute Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to

Sir Frederic Bennett MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly ~~of~~ the Council of Europe. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to

all Full Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the ~~Consultative~~ Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Prime Minister

Content with changes indicated on the attached drafts?

Yes No

MP 26/2

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

26 February 1982

Yes No

Action complete
pa
MP

Dear Mike

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

The Government Deputy Chief Whip asked me last night if I would arrange for a number of changes to be made in the above Delegation. They only relate to the Conservative membership.

Attached is a draft written question and answer and, subject to the Prime Minister's approval, I should be grateful if you would make arrangements for this to be answered early next week. Also attached are two draft letters for you to send to the two new appointees.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons, who is the Delegation Secretary.

Yours

Peter Moore

(P J MOORE)

M Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Draft Question for Written Answer by the Prime Minister

(: to ask the Prime Minister what changes have been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

Draft Answer by the Prime Minister

I have appointed my hon friend, the Member for Southampton, Test (Mr Hill) as a Full Member in place of my hon friend, the Member for Stroud (Sir Anthony Kershaw). I have also appointed my hon friend, the Member for Aberdeenshire, West (Sir Russell Fairgrieve) as a Substitute Member

Draft letter to James S Hill Esq MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft letter to Sir Russell Fairgrieve MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

26 FEB 1982

Prime Minister

Content to announce as in attached arranged PQ?

MF 18/12

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

18 December 1981

Dear Mike

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

I have heard today from the Opposition that they would like to replace Donald Coleman with John Morris as a substitute member of their delegation. I gather that because there is to be a meeting on 8th January it is essential that this change is made before the House rises for the Christmas recess. Attached is a draft written question and answer as well as a draft letter for you to send to Mr Morris. Subject to the Prime Minister's agreement, I should be grateful if you would make arrangements for this change to be announced as soon as possible.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon, the delegation secretary.

Yours ever

Peter Moore

(P J MOORE)

M A Pattison Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

Draft Question for Written Answer by the Prime Minister

( ): to ask the Prime Minister what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Draft Answer by the Prime Minister

I have appointed the Rt Hon and Learned Member for Aberavon (Mr Morris) as a substitute member, in place of the Hon Member for Neath (Mr Coleman).

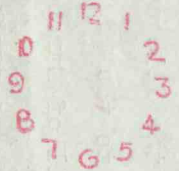
Draft letter to the Rt Hon John Morris QC MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer [tomorrow] and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

sent as drafted 21/12/81

18 DEC 1981



(Answered by the Prime Minister on Tuesday 22 December 1981)

UNSTARRED NO. 75 Mr Ralph Howell:
To ask the Prime Minister, what change has been made in the composition of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

I have appointed the Rt Hon and Learned Member for Aberavon (Mr Morris) as a substitute Member, in place of the hon Member for Neath (Mr Coleman).

Euro Pol

Government Chief Whip

12, Downing Street, London SW1

5 May 1981

Dear Nick

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

We spoke on Friday last when you very kindly agreed to arrange for the written question announcing the composition of the delegation to be tabled today for answer tomorrow. As you know, the Council of Europe is due to meet in Strasbourg from 11 - 15 May and it is essential that the delegation's credentials are lodged with them in good time.

Incidentally, the Labour Party are one name short in their substitute members and the Opposition Chief Whip is doing his best to supply me with their nomination. He quite understands that if he is not able to do this the question will have to be answered tomorrow as it stands. We can, of course, always add the missing name at a later stage.

Attached is a draft written question and answer and also draft letters for you to send to the members concerned.

I am copying this to Andrew Kennon in the House of Commons who is the delegation secretary

Yours ever
Peter

(P J MOORE)

N Sanders Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

DRAFT WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

to ask the Prime Minister if she will announce the composition of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe will be meeting in Strasbourg from 11 - 15 May. I have appointed 18 delegates from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The delegation this year will consist of Ten Members of the Conservative Party, Seven Members of the Labour Party and One Member of the Liberal Party. I have also appointed a number of substitute delegates.

The appointments of representatives and substitutes have been made on the basis of nominations by the Leaders of those parties concerned.

The same delegation will be representing the United Kingdom Parliament at the Assembly of the Western European Union.

Representatives from the Government Benches will be:

The honourable Member for Torbay (Sir Frederic Bennett); who will act as Leader.

The honourable Members for:

Harrow Central (Mr Grant)
Solihull (Mr Grieve)
Norfolk, South West (Mr Hawkins)
Twickenham (Mr Jessel)
Stroud (Sir Anthony Kershaw)
Edgbaston (Mrs Knight)
Harrow, West (Mr Page)
Ruislip Northwood (Mr Wilkinson)

and the Lord Reay

Representatives from the Labour Party will be:

The rt honourable Members for:

Houghton-le-Spring (Mr Urwin)
Park (Mr Mulley)

and the honourable Members for:

Wandsworth, Tooting (Mr Cox)
Rother Valley (Mr Hardy)
East Kilbride (Dr Miller)
Ince (Mr McGuire)

and the Lord Hughes

The Representative from the Liberal Party will be:

The honourable Member for:

Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr Beith)

The following substitutes have been appointed to act as necessary on behalf of the delegates:

From the Government Benches:

The honourable Members for:

Bournemouth East (Mr Atkinson)
Norfolk, North (Mr Howell)
Southampton, Test (Mr Hill)
Hallam (Mr Osborn)
Warwick and Leamington (Mr Smith)
Sudbury and Woodbridge (Mr Stainton)
Reading, North (Mr Durant)

and the Lord Duncan-Sandys

From the Labour Party:

The honourable Members for:

Brent, South (Mr Pavitt)
Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Mr Brown)
Kirkcaldy (Mr Gourlay)
Wolverhampton, South East (Mr Edwards)
Wallsend (Mr Garrett)
Warrington (Sir Tom Williams)
Ilkeston (Mr Fletcher)

and the Lord Northfield

From the Liberal Party:

The Lord McNair.

Draft Letter to
Harry Gourlay Esq MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer /tomorrow/ and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to

Sir Frederic Bennett MP

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as leader of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly to the Council of Europe. You will also be a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer /tomorrow/ and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to
all Full Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Full Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer /~~tomorrow~~/ and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Draft Letter to
all Substitute Members

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to continue to serve as a Substitute Member of the delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer /tomorrow/ and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

File

DSG

European Policy

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 April 1981

COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 14 April. As you will know, she was very willing to announce the change proposed in it. I must add, however, that I do hope that in future it will be possible for those responsible for proposing these changes to us to put them to No. 10 rather earlier in the day. This is not the first occasion on which we have been asked to make announcements of this sort on the day before the beginning of a Recess; but it is unfortunate to have to ask the Prime Minister at 1400 hours on a day when she is preoccupied with preparation for her own Questions, and departure for a major overseas tour immediately after those Questions, to reach a decision on a matter which could have been put to her several days earlier.

Can we please take steps to organise ourselves a little better in future?

N. J. SANDERS

P. J. Moore, Esq.,
Chief Whip's Office.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 April 1981

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Full Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Full Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on 15 April and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

John Wilkinson, Esq., M.P.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 April 1981

The Prime Minister understands that you are willing to serve as a Substitute Member of the Delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. You will also be a Substitute Member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to let you know that she will be announcing your appointment by way of a Parliamentary Written Answer on 15 April and until then she would wish the matter to be treated as confidential.

Tony Durant, Esq., M.P.

14.4.81

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

14 April 1981

Dear Nick

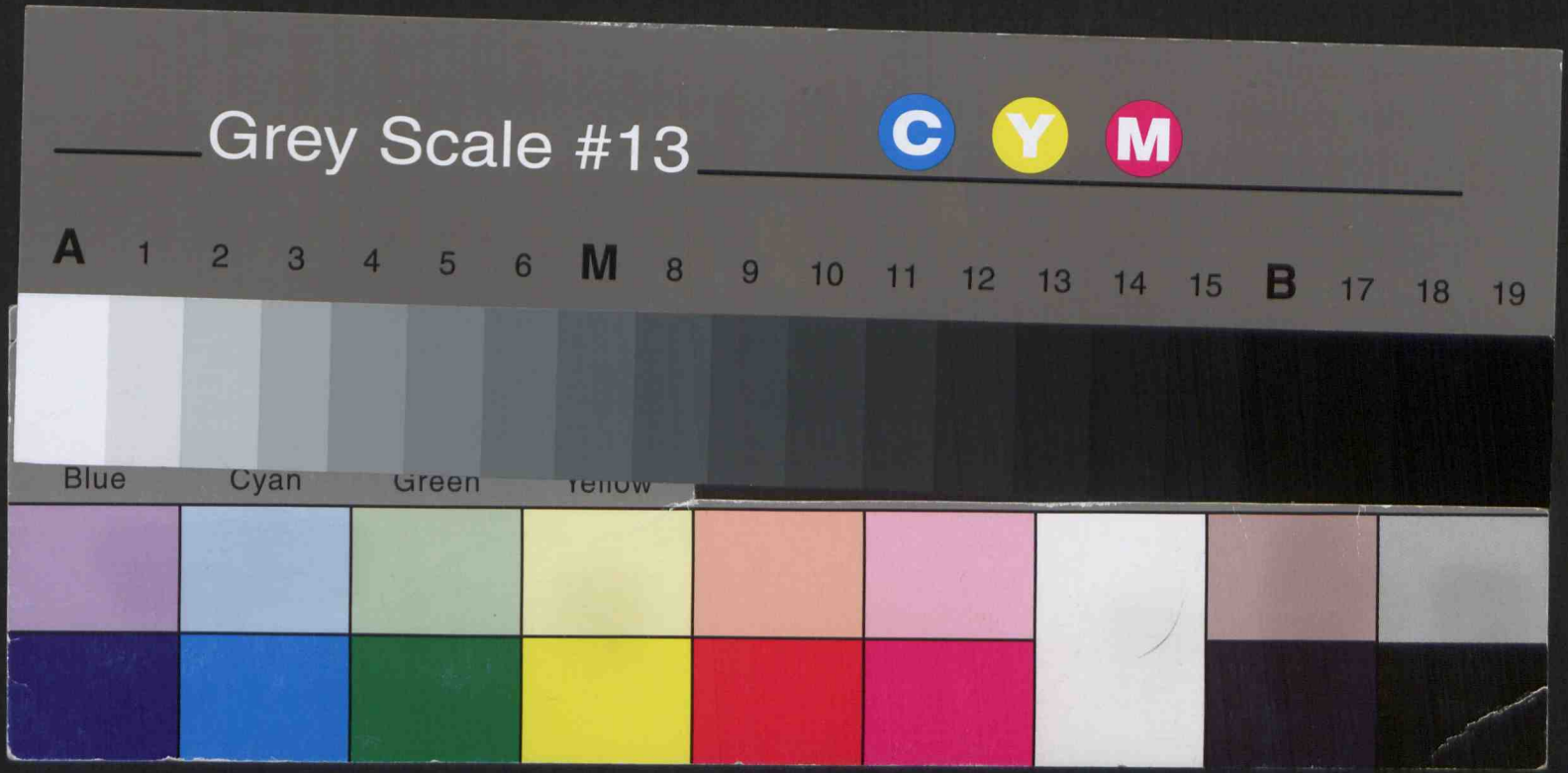
COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (DELEGATION)

Mr Cranley Onslow has told the Chief Whip that he wishes to come off the above Delegation. The Chief Whip has agreed with Mr Paul Hawkins, who acts as the Whip on the Delegation, that one of the Substitute Members, Mr John Wilkinson, should replace Mr Onslow as a Full Member. It has also been agreed that Mr Tony Durant should fill the substitute vacancy created by Mr Wilkinson's promotion.

I understand that the COE Assembly will be meeting for its 33rd Session in the week commencing 11 May and that one of its first tasks will be the election of a President. I further understand that it is most important that the Conservative element of the Delegation is at full strength in good time for the Assembly meeting, and that allowing for the inevitable time it takes for the accreditation processes, it is important that these changes are announced this week. I am sorry for the short notice involved, but I have only just received clearance to submit these changes to you. Subject to the Prime Minister's approval, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the attached draft question to be tabled for answer this week. Also attached are draft letters for you to send to Mr Wilkinson and Mr Durant.

Yours ever
Peter Moore
(P J MOORE)

N Sanders Esq
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1


Grey Scale #13
C
Y
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A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19
Blue
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