

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

EHG(D)(79)17

COPY NO

1

19 NOVEMBER 1979

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, DUBLIN

29-30 NOVEMBER 1979

DRUG TAKING BY US TROOPS IN GERMANY

Brief by Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To demonstrate sympathy for the Germans' problem over drug trafficking into the FRG.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Sympathise with German problem. How do they propose we should tackle it? One possibility would be for the Nine to concert informally in appropriate international fora. We would certainly co-operate.

BACKGROUND

3. The Germans have told us that they are concerned by the rise in drug abuse by US troops stationed in Germany and at the risk of its spreading to the Bundeswehr. They are considering measures to increase medical care and to improve policing of their borders, but consider that it is a problem which they cannot handle alone.

4. There is already considerable international co-operation on the containment of drug trafficking, for example in the European Drugs Co-operation Group ("Pompidou initiative"), Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council. We should be glad to assist concertation among the Nine in these fora in order to reinforce the measures currently in

/operation

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

operation and to help the Germans with their difficulties. But we do not think there exists Community machinery which could be of use in combatting the problem.

5. The Germans have not said they consider that drug abuse is a problem amongst British troops stationed in Germany. UK authorities agree that as far as BAOR is concerned we have no serious cause for concern.

6. The Americans tried to raise similar questions in NATO earlier this year, but have not convinced their Allies that NATO offers a suitable forum. The French have made it clear that they will not allow such questions to be discussed in NATO's political consultation machinery.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

19 NOVEMBER 1979

CONFIDENTIAL