

PRIME MINISTER

*Very helpful
many thanks!*

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING 29/30 NOVEMBER

GUIDE TO BRIEFS AND RELATED PAPERS

A number of new briefs and papers have been incorporated in the first folder of your briefs (attached) and I have asked Clare to incorporate certain other briefs in the second folder which you have with you. The following guide may be helpful to you. Paragraphs relate to brief numbers.

1. I have incorporated at the end of the Steering Brief a telegram from The Hague giving Dutch ideas about the Agenda. The proposal to start with the economic and financial situation (including Japan) and the North/South Dialogue is very much in line with the proposals discussed at your briefing meeting.

2. I am submitting to you separately some minutes on the Snake culminating in a minute of today's date by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I have incorporated at the end of brief 2 the text of the Duisenberg letter.

I have also included (behind the Duisenberg letter) three telegrams which you should see. The Treasury do not think that the Commission Document contained in these telegrams need cause us any problems.

3. There is a new brief on sterling and the Safety Net, together with a brief (3b) on the IMF negotiations.

4. A new and up-to-date brief on the North/South Dialogue. I have added to it the telegram from Sir Oliver Wright to which Mr. Butler referred at your briefing meeting.

5. There is, I fear, an addendum on the Tindemans' Report (flagged A), and, at the back of the brief, the French draft statement on European union; the translation of a letter from Mr. Tindemans to you received this morning; and a translation of a letter received yesterday from the Secretary General and President of the European Movement. I have also added at the back, in case you wish to glance at it, a note on the French draft statement giving a comparison (in which you expressed interest) between the French draft and the version handed to Mr. Crosland by Monsieur de Guiringaud.

There is also a note (which you may wish to glance at) on the voting record of the Nine at the United Nations. I have included this in brief No. 5, since it is relevant to a discussion of European union.

7. A new brief has been added (after Page 6 of the present brief) to cover the new draft statement by the Council on EEC/Japan. I have also added a note from the Department of Trade on the present position of Japanese imports and exports (for which you asked at the briefing meeting).

8. There is an additional brief on the new Commission. The existing brief gave you the state of play about the appointment of Commissioners, which is still valid, although the Dutch and Italians were expected to announce their Commissioners today. We still do not know what the French intend to do. The Irish believe that President Giscard may raise the question of portfolios at the European Council meeting. If so, the formal position is that this is a matter for the new President of the Commission.

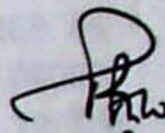
9. On fisheries, I have marked to you separately a telegram on Icelandic Fisheries, together with a text of the statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary this evening.

10. JET: I have added a minute recording an approach from the Dutch, strongly advising us that we should not press for JET to be included on the Agenda of the meeting. I have, of course, included JET as an item to be raised bilaterally with Chancellor Schmidt at an early stage on Monday.

11. An additional brief has been provided on the Irish Green Pound, together with a note by Sir Frederick Kearns (which partially duplicates the brief) covering the Taoiseach's message to you.

12. The first three pages of the brief have been revised.

15. I have added to the brief a note by Mr. Benn on oil prices (which you asked to be kept for the European Council) together with an exchange of telegrams with Bonn about the Venezuelan comments on the German attitude to oil price increases. I have sent you separately today a minute by Mr. Benn about his talks with Sheik Yamani.



26 November 1976