

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



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

Chairman

CONFIDENTIAL

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JS-H/ujh

18th September 1980

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

Dear Margaret,

I have twice been to Athens during the past seven weeks. The first time with Diana Elles and the second time with officers of our Group (seven people). The purpose of both visits was to explore the possibility of Nea Demokratia Members of Parliament joining us when they entered the Community in 1981.

The first visit consisted of meeting all the Ministers concerned with the EEC, including the Prime Minister. During the second visit with my colleagues, two of the backbench members of the Nea Demokratia Party joined us during our discussions. In the evening I gave a dinner party for the Ministers closest to the EEC.

It became increasingly apparent during these visits that, whilst no positions had been taken as to the future actions of the Nea Demokratia Party, it really all depended on the decision of Prime Minister Rallis. My impression was that they were very taken with the idea of working with us, notwithstanding the great pressure which had undoubtedly been put on them by the Christian Democrats and the Liberals during the past two months. My reasons for saying this are that they feel, I believe, that there is identity of interest between our two parties and countries and the problems that they are going to meet in joining the EEC.

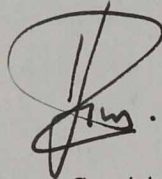
Unfortunately, my last impression is that they are almost completely unprepared, both at ministerial and parliamentary level, for the rigours of Community membership, but doubtless being Greek they will be able to organise things at the last minute whatever may happen.

/...

Finally, as you can see, we stand an extremely good chance of the Nea Demokratia Members of Parliament joining us and this would be of great advantage to us in the European Parliament, not only in widening our base here, but also giving greater weight to what we say in the Parliament.

I think a little extra push from you, if it is possible, when you meet the Prime Minister during your visit to Athens will clinch the matter. If I can be of any further assistance to you in giving you any more details, either during this weekend or at any other time, please let me know.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J.S.H.', written in a cursive style.

James Scott-Hopkins
Chairman