

SECRET

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Minute of the meeting held in Sir Ian Gilmour's room at the Foreign Office on Wednesday 9th May at 4.0 p.m. to discuss preparation for the European Election Campaign

Present: Sir Ian Gilmour (in the chair)
 Lord Thorneycroft
 The Hon. Douglas Hurd
 Sir Anthony Royle
 Mr A. McAlpine
 Mr A.S. Garner
 Mr A. Walker
 Mr R. Boaden
 Mr A. Howarth

1. Manifesto

A revised draft would be available to the Prime Minister that evening, and Lord Thorneycroft would seek clearance of the text so that it could be sent to the printers on Thursday.

The Manifesto would be launched at a Press Conference at 9.30 a.m. on Friday 18th May. It was hoped that the Prime Minister herself would chair the Press Conference and that she would be accompanied on the platform by Lord Carrington, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Walker and Mr Hurd.

Lord Thorneycroft would discuss arrangements with the Political Office at No. 10. Sir Anthony Royle would discuss other aspects of the arrangements with Mr Scott-Hopkins.

2. Candidates' Conference

A Candidates' Conference would be held on the same day as the launching of the Manifesto, starting at 11.30 a.m. and running through lunch-time. The emphasis at the Conference should be on campaigning more than on policy. Sir Ian Gilmour would arrange for consideration to be given to the attacks likely to be mounted on our policies by our opponents and the most appropriate counter-attacks by us. Mr Walker would deliver some proof copies of the Manifesto to Sir Ian Gilmour as soon as possible.

3. Political direction of the Campaign

Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Hurd would between them be available for a morning meeting with Lord Thorneycroft and others at the Central Office each day during the Campaign.

4. Press Conferences

Not more than five or six press conferences should be held in all. Further thought should be given to the appropriate subjects and participants.

A Foreign Office Minister would be available to talk to the Foreign Press Association on the 21st May and Sir Anthony Royle would make necessary liaison arrangements.

5. Broadcasting

Negotiations remained to be completed between the Parties and the Broadcasting Authorities, but we should aim to take one party political broadcast out of the ordinary allocation and to have the Conservative Party political Broadcast on eve of poll or the Tuesday before polling. Lord Thorneycroft would discuss this question with the Chief Whip.

The content and style of our PPB should be further considered and Lord Thorneycroft would discuss this with the Prime Minister.

Further information was needed on proposals by the Broadcasting Authorities for current affairs programmes covering the Campaign.

6. Advertising

It was not anticipated that we would use national press advertising.

There was a possibility of using a very limited amount of poster advertising.

7. Prime Minister's Personal Programme

It was hoped that the Prime Minister would make three Rally speeches during the Campaign, and Lord Thorneycroft would discuss with her the nature of her participation during the Campaign.

8. Speakers

Lord Thorneycroft had written to members of the Cabinet and some others asking them to make time available for speaking engagements in the country during the Campaign.

It was noted that a Youth for Europe Rally would be held in London on Sunday 3rd June. It was understood that Mr Heath would be taking an active part in the Campaign.

9. Leaflets

Draft leaflets had been submitted this afternoon and they had not yet been seen by Lord Thorneycroft. Copies of these were left with Sir Ian Gilmour. Copy should be cleared by Friday.

10. Questions of Policy

Sir Anthony Royle would chair the Committee and Mr Sandy Walker would be the Secretary. It was anticipated that few, if any, formal meetings of the Committee would be needed.

11. Any Other Business

It was noted that it would be very much appreciated in Europe if Mrs Thatcher were able to attend the meeting of Leaders of centre and centre right parties to be held under the auspices of the EDU at Klesheim in Austria on the 28th June, and Lord Thorneycroft would raise this matter with the Political Office at Downing Street.