

Brussels, March 22 1982

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subject copy filed on: -

European Policy: Council Meeting: Pt 10.

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 50A/82-**

Dear Prime Minister,

Following the example of my predecessors, I have thought it useful to inform you of my position with a view to the next meeting of the European Council, to be held at the end of the month.

As you know, our meeting will take place in the month in which we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome. It seems to me that this is a suitable occasion to take stock of the present situation of the Community. I am sure you will agree with me that the present situation is far from reassuring as regards the future of our common enterprise.

I would therefore propose to my colleagues that during our general debate on the economic and social situation and in the light of the Commission document, we try to analyse the circumstances underlying the difficulties we have been experiencing in recent years as regards overall progress within the Community.

I personally consider that we must try - notwithstanding the fact that each government tackles in a different way its main economic problems - to find common objectives and to undertake joint action in those areas where this is in the long-term interest of all members of the Community.

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret THATCHER, M.P.

Prime Minister

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Such an attitude is of crucial importance not only for the Community's continuous existence and its development but is also indispensable if our position is to be deemed credible in our dealings with our main partners.

We can undoubtedly achieve results if we speak with one voice or if we align our attitudes with regard to third countries. However, these countries know that we are often hardly able to undertake any common action, and this weakens our position on a world scale accordingly. There is a plethora of examples illustrating this type of situation: it may thus be noted that we have not yet managed to work out a real common commercial policy or to achieve genuine monetary solidarity or joint action to maintain our industrial potential. Finally, the principle shortcoming remains the fact that we have still not succeeded in coordinating or aligning our economic policies.

I do not believe that the type of general exchange of views which we normally have, and which leads to general conclusions the broad outlines of which are formulated by the President, could be sufficient under the present circumstances. My own conviction is that we should choose one or two major topics in respect of which we would try to lay down clear political guidelines. One such topic could be the reply to be given to the question of how to create a suitable climate to promote investment in all our Member States. This is an area where national and Community action should go hand in hand and be co-ordinated in order to be complementary. The Commission has constantly reminded us of the need for more energetic action in this respect and it has made useful and coherent proposals within the context of its mandate.

Moreover, this topic is in line with the proposal made on other occasions by many of our colleagues, and recently renewed by Prime Minister JOERGENSEN, that the European Council should give priority attention to the problem of unemployment.

Another subject which we could tackle concerns our commercial and economic relations with the United States and Japan. As I have already stated, I am convinced that it is not enough to agree to express our grievances concerning the policies of our partners. To have a chance of being heard, such complaints must be backed by progress in all Community policies, and we must show our capacity to take the accompanying measures necessary to induce our partners to play the game and respect, as we have done so far, the international rules based on reciprocal rights and obligations. Neither the Community, nor any country of the free world for that matter, would benefit from a trade or economic war. I am, however, convinced that if the Community is unable to back up its positions with acts, it will be the first to suffer, with in addition the risk of destruction of our internal cohesion. Looking ahead to the major economic and political meetings and particularly the Versailles Summit, we must simultaneously carry out joint preparation and strengthen our solidarity. At these meetings, we should also seize the opportunity of putting forward our common position in favour of a resumption of the dialogue with the developing countries.

In the same connection, I would remind you that in London we instructed our Ministers for Finance to carry out a detailed examination of the achievements and development of the European Monetary System after three years of

operation and to report back to our Council. So far, this work has not been as fruitful as we might have hoped. I wonder whether, without entering into the technical aspects of the debate, we should not provide some impetus that will ensure a successful outcome for this work.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs are to report to us on their attempts to settle the unresolved problems in connection with the Mandate of 30 May. I am confident that you share my hope that they will make sufficient progress for us to take note of their report and to leave them to complete their task. In any case, it would not be desirable for the European Council to reopen the substance of the discussion.

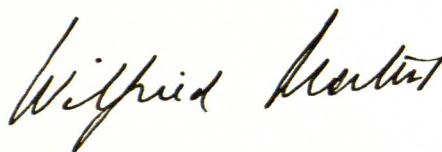
The international political situation also gives rise to some concern. I should therefore like to raise the question of East-West relations with you, particularly in the light of developments in the situation in Poland to which we have given our full and continuous attention since 13 December 1981. In the same context, I feel that we should also raise the problem of Afghanistan in order to confirm publicly the position adopted at our previous meetings, and examine the situation created by the decision to adjourn the Madrid meeting on Co-operation and Security in Europe until November.

We could also hold an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East and in Central America in order to examine the role which Europe can play in securing peace in those regions.

Finally, it seems highly desirable to me that we should have a detailed exchange of views on the present state of the Ten's relations with the United States of America and that we should examine ways and means of developing consultations with this friend and partner.

I should be grateful if you could let me know your views on these preliminary considerations and, if you agree, I should of course greatly appreciate any contribution you might wish to make to the debate.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wilfried Martens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wilfried MARTENS