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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 March, 1977.

European Council: Record

Thank you for your letter of 28 March with which you enclosed the draft records of the European Council Meetings in Rome on 25 and 26 March.

I return herewith the draft note of the first session on 25 March, on which I have made a number of minor amendments. I do not think that the Prime Minister would want his remarks about President Carter on the last page to be quoted in full, and I have therefore suggested some deletions at that point.

I shall return the draft of the note on the second session as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I am content that the enclosed draft should be typed in final form and distributed within the FCO; to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Private Secretary; and to Sir John Hunt and Sir Roy Denman. Selected passages may be distributed to Department of Employment (Meeting with the ETUC); Department of Trade and Ministry of Overseas Development (North/South Dialogue); and copies of the record should be sent, but strictly for information only, to Heads of Mission in EEC and other posts as appropriate.

P. R. H. WRIGHT

E.A.J. Fergusson, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 March 1977

Dear Peter,

Copy for J.F.

European Council: Record

I enclose a self-explanatory minute from Peter Petrie, together with the draft record. When you have had a chance of reading it through and approving it, perhaps you would give me your instructions about further distribution. In the past, e.g. where, on the basis of Mr Callaghan's full record, I dictated the transcript (as at the last Meeting of the European Council in Rome on 1/2 December 1975), the record was distributed to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Cabinet Office and to EEC and other posts abroad as appropriate, and extracts were sent to the Private Offices of certain Ministers (for instance, the discussion on passport union and on a meeting of Community Ministers of the Interior were copied to the Private Secretary to the Home Secretary; a full record went to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Private Secretary).

Yours ever,
E.A.J.
(E.A.J. Fergusson)

Patrick Wright Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

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Private Secretary

cc: PS/PUS
 (without Mr Hibbert
 encl) Mr Butler
 Mr Fretwell
 Sir R Denman (Cabinet O)
 Sir D Maitland (UKREP)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: RECORD

1. I submit the draft record which you may wish to send to Mr Patrick Wright, to whom I gave the top copy of the first section in Rome. Mr Morland retained the top copy of the two sections drafted by him. No distribution has been given to the complete draft in its present form.
2. I assume you will decide with Mr Wright what distribution outside the FCO and Cabinet Office to give to the final version and to any records there may be of the conversations at and after dinner on 25 March. I suggest that the attached records could be sent to the members of EUT and to our Ambassadors in Community posts, with a caution that it should not become known that we had used the Presidency official seat to produce a full record.
3. The Council Secretariat official next to me was taking notes in slower time and covered 30 pages which he told me he would give his secretary to type and keep. I suggest that UKRep might be authorised to compare notes if they think that would be useful - eg to enable them to repeat the exercise when we no longer have the Presidency.

P. Petrie

P C Petrie
 EID(I)

28 March 1977