

OK cc Motes  
Subject

Euro-Pol. Enlargement of EEC  
#2.



FILE

cc: FCO

(W)

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 November, 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T178/83

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October. I am glad to have this chance to reiterate the strength of British support for Portuguese accession and our determination to see democracy in Europe consolidated with the accession of your country to the European Community as soon as possible.

I sympathise with your sense of frustration at the sometimes slow and tortuous progress of your negotiations with the Community. These have in fact made considerable progress; I am particularly glad to see that, following the recent agreement among the Agriculture Ministers on the reform of arrangements for Mediterranean fruit and vegetables, the way is now clear for the Community to get down to serious discussion of the agricultural transitional arrangements with Portugal.

The post-Stuttgart negotiations are obviously of importance for Portugal, since these will change the Community for years to come. Our interest in an outcome which will ensure that no Member State is asked to bear a financial burden disproportionate to its means, and that agricultural expenditure is brought under effective control seems to me to coincide with points which you yourself have raised in your negotiations with the Community. We are doing all we can to bring these negotiations to an early and satisfactory conclusion, to put an end to the Community's internal debate and thus to lay a firm foundation for the essential task of enlargement.

/Like you,

(W)



Like you, we have always believed that the Portuguese and Spanish negotiations should be conducted entirely separately and on their respective merits. We share your hope that your negotiations will be completed during the first half of 1984, with the aim of signing a Treaty as soon as possible thereafter. We should like to see the Spanish negotiations brought to a successful conclusion in a similar timescale and we sympathise with the wish of both Spain and Portugal to enter the Community on 1 January, 1986. That is what we shall be working for.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Sheldrake

His Excellency Dr. Mario Soares