

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Madrid, 18th November 1983.

SERIAL No. T 191ⁿ/83

Dear Prime Minister,

The six years that have elapsed since the 28th July 1977, when Spain presented her request to accede to the European Community, have shown clearly that the obstacles which have arisen during the negotiations are basically derived from the problems that exist within the Community itself.

Aware of this situation, the European Council of Heads of State and Government have examined these problems at successive meetings, aiming to make an effort at the highest level to carry forward both the internal reform of the Community and its enlargement.

At the meeting held in Stuttgart last June, the European Council took an important decision on this point, when it agreed that the "negotiations for accession with Spain and Portugal should proceed with the aim of concluding them in such a manner that the Treaties of Accession might be submitted for ratification at the time that the results of the negotiations on the future financing of the Community are submitted".

The Stuttgart Summit, therefore, established a connection between these two processes, so that in future no thought can be given to the true reform of the Community without at the same time carrying out its enlargement. Briefly, as from Stuttgart the solution of the Community crisis and its enlargement are but two facets of the same political project: the necessary revitalising of the construction of Europe.

The best proof of the willingness of the Community Countries to build Europe lies precisely in their capacity to carry out its enlargement, including those European countries which, like Spain, wish to participate fully in this historic task.

The Spanish Government has repeatedly stated that the accession to the European Communities is a prime objective of its foreign policy. This opinion is shared by the General Cortes, which have also defined Spain's integration within the Community as a national matter.

My Government, therefore, looks to a clear attitude on the part of the Member States and of the Community Institutions which will make possible within a reasonable period of time Spain's integration into the European Communities. Anything else would be a grave historical responsibility on the part of the Community towards the Spanish people.

You may be sure that Spain will never renounce her legitimate aspiration to participate in the building of Europe. Nevertheless, as President of the Spanish Government I am concerned that frustration may take over my country's public opinion, which has serious doubts regarding the existence of a true political will on the part of the Community to see the completion of the Accession procedure.

For this reason, and due to the proximity of the European Council to be held in Athens, I have decided to write to you with the aim of establishing exactly the position of your Government on this matter, and to what extent I can look for a positive response at the forthcoming Summit.

I hope that in overcoming existing difficulties the Athens European Council will take decisions that will enable the negotiations for Accession to be concluded during the course of the coming year, and that in this way our integration within the Community may become a definite fact on the 1st January 1986.

For my part, I think the moment has arrived to give practical effect to the many expressions of political will made by the Community Members at the highest level.

In any event, I should be most grateful if your reply could be as frank and precise as possible. I wish to know clearly the attitude of each and every one of the Governments, and of the Community as a whole, in order that I may report with exactitude to the Spanish people and take the decisions that are shown to be necessary.

I avail myself, Prime Minister, of this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.