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10 April 1980

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG

27/28 APRIL

NORTH/SOUTH MATTERS

Brief by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To avoid discussion.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. North/South matters in general not ripe for discussion. But no objection to taking note of Brandt Report in conclusions of the Council, adding that it is worthy of future study.
3. (If raised). We do not favour a North/South Summit. Hard to see what it could achieve. Full preparation would be needed. Expectations bound to be raised.

BACKGROUND

References: Nil.

4. (Not for use). We understand that the Germans will propose that the conclusions of the European Council should take note of the Brandt Report and acknowledge it as worthy of future study. They fully accept that discussion would be premature but would like to make the gesture to the Third World and, no doubt, to Herr Brandt. We can go along with this but should oppose discussion during the Council meeting itself.
5. (Not for use). Brandt Report proposed a North/South Summit of 25. Chancellor Schmidt has publicly lent his support to this suggestion but, speaking privately to Lord Carrington, he was sceptical about additional Summit meetings. The Americans seem to be unenthusiastic as do some of the developing countries. Dr Waldheim, however, is interested and President Giscard may be. Mr Manley is trying to generate support within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and has raised the matter with President Castro, the current Chairman. We have been cool in public but have not ruled it out; the proposal might gain acceptance and we might wish to attend.

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