



asg

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

15 December 1981

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO "DERNIERES  
NOUVELLES D'ALSACE"

---

Thank you for your letter of 14 December.

I enclose a text of a message to the above  
newspaper which the Prime Minister has approved.

E. J. COLES

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

↓

I shall be in Strasbourg on 16 December for an occasion which is significant for the development of the European Parliament. It will be the first time that the Head of Government who is serving as President of the European Council has attended the Parliament to give an account of a European Council Meeting.

I am glad that this step, which will strengthen the working relationship between the Parliament and the European Council, has been taken during the British Presidency of the European Community. It is one of a number of measures we have taken to try to ensure that all the institutions of the Community work together to find practical solutions to our problems. Lord Carrington, President of the Council of Ministers, will also attend the Parliament tomorrow for debates on foreign policy questions. So, with the presence of Mme. Veil, President of the Parliament, and of course M. Thorn, President of the Commission, we will have the Heads of four major Community institutions in Strasbourg this week.

All those institutions have an important role to play in building the European Community. My visit to the Parliament demonstrates that the European Council has become part of the European scene. It provides a valuable opportunity for Heads of Government to exchange views generally and to try to resolve the Community's most important problems. It is thus able, together with the other institutions, to promote the common aim of a Community which functions more effectively, which protects the democracy and freedom which Europe cherishes, and which takes all available opportunities to extend that democracy.

/ In the Parliament

In the Parliament this week special attention will be given to foreign policy. The Governments of the Community agreed in London on 13 October new guidelines of closer cooperation on world issues. This means real common action on major problems and will guide our approach to vital questions such as Poland, Afghanistan, East/West relations and the Middle East.

Strasbourg is often described as a crossroads for Europe. What is important now is that those who have responsibilities for Europe's future do not pass each other by at the crossroads but work together there to hammer out common approaches to our common problems. The European Community provides the framework for that cooperation. We must build on its successes and lay the foundations for a peaceful and prosperous future for the citizens of Europe.