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EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BRUSSELS

28/29 JUNE 1982

GREECE AND THE EC

Brief by Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To avoid substantive discussion.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Commission studying Greek memorandum as agreed following March European Council. Their report very much a starting point; points raised in it will need careful study in appropriate Community form.
3. Need for Greek Government and Commission to keep in close touch as ideas on both sides develop.

BACKGROUND

4. Greek Government presented to Presidency on 19 March a paper outlining their requirements for changes in terms of Greek membership to take account of what PASOK describe as Greece's 'special status' as a relatively less developed country. Commission has been charged with studying document and reporting.
5. Greek paper is somewhat vague, but at least appears to indicate determination to negotiate from firm position of EC membership. Some aspects of their demands will cause difficulties, especially on agriculture and derogations from competition rules; but other member states will have at least as great, if not greater interest, than the UK in resisting them.

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6. Commission likely to have produced by time of European Council its 'opinion' on Greek paper. Commission approach not to treat this as a single 'renegotiation' but rather to remit issues raised for detailed discussion in various Community fora. European Council certainly not the place for such discussion, though Mr Papandreou will no doubt wish to refer to the matter in general terms, as he did at 29/30 March European Council.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

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