

Euro PD



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

(2)

Prime Minister  
To MR.

26 January 1981

Am 27/1

h.s.  
Am

Dear Michael,

I enclose for the Prime Minister's information copies of the latest letter from Mr Teddy Taylor MP about the European Reform Group's views on the EC, and of the Lord Privy Seal's reply.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

mt

Yours ever  
Stephen Gomersall.

S J Gomersall

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street





Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1

26 January 1981

*Dear Teddy,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 January.

I fear however that you have missed the point. The point is not whether the Treaties can legally be amended (they can), but whether the policies originally enunciated by the European Reform Group are compatible with UK membership of the Community (they are not); the reason for the latter being that the European Reform Group's policies in question are so at variance with the objectives of the Community which are embodied in the Treaties that there is no realistic prospect of our partners agreeing to the necessary amendment.

*Yours*

*la*

Teddy Taylor Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17  
ECD(1)

cc PS  
PS/UPS

Mr Hannay  
Mr Burrows

21st January, 1981. 22  
1

Thank you for your kind letter of the 16th January and I am glad to receive your confirmation that policies involving amendment to the Treaties were not necessarily incompatible with continuing membership of the E.E.C.

I am, therefore, really at a loss to understand your original written answer to me which appeared to be based on a contrary assumption.

As you know, I do not believe that the policies of the Reform Group and our aims of securing change by agreement, along the lines of our four aims, would require an alteration of the Treaty.

However, as you now accept that even if such changes were required, it would not of necessity be contrary to continued membership, I therefore wonder if, on reflection, you would wish to reconsider the Parliamentary answer.

I do not wish to bore you with going over the ground once again, but surely you will accept the point on principle.

The Rt.Hon.Sir Ian Gilmour,Bt., M.P.  
Lord Privy Seal,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
S.W. 1.



*Euro Pol*

*EURO POL*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*②*  
*Prime Minister*  
*To Mr. D.*  
*Frank*

16 January 1981

*mt*

*Dear Michael,*

Further to your letter of 15 December, Teddy Taylor MP has written again to the Lord Privy Seal on the subject of Government policy to the European Community. I enclose for information a copy of the letter and of the Lord Privy Seal's reply.

I am copying this letter to Michael Franklin.

*Yours ever*  
*S J Gomersall*

S J Gomersall  
Private Secretary to the  
Lord Privy Seal

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street





Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1

16 January 1981

*Teddy,*

Thank you for your letter of 30 December. Like you I think we must agree to disagree, but I am concerned that there should be no misunderstanding about the Government's position on amendment of the Treaties.

My letter of 23 December did not suggest that policies involving amendment to the Treaties were incompatible with continuing membership. On the contrary, I said that the Treaties had been amended in the past and could be amended again. I went on to say that in the Government's view amendments of the Treaties were not necessary to achieve our aims in the restructuring exercise, nor were they the right way to achieve those aims. As the Prime Minister pointed out in the radio interview to which you refer, any changes in the Treaties will come by agreement between the ten Member States.

*gus*

*lan*

Teddy Taylor Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA



ECD(1)



The LPS would like to reply, contesting (again) his point about the price amendment of the Treaty. please submit w. previous correspondence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Slyomenak  
7/11.

From: Teddy Taylor M.P.

Ce. JS  
ps Mr Ford  
Lambidge  
Mr Hanney  
Mr Franklin Cat. Off.

31 December, 1980

The Rt.Hon.Sir Ian Gilmour Bt.M.P  
Lord Privy Seal,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
Downing Street,  
London SW1A 2AL

R. Ian

(479) Thank you very much for your further letter of 23 December about the Reform Group.

I am surprised that the whole basis of your letter once again is that items of policy which involve an amendment to the Treaty are regarded by you as incompatible with continuing membership. This certainly is not the view expressed by the Prime Minister in her excellent interview, and I hope that it is an issue you will re-consider.

I appreciate the courtesy of your lengthy advice and am afraid that we can only agree to disagree.

- 1. Mr Spockley to see
- 2. Mr Hoggan for a draft please

7/11