



PM/84/69

PRIME MINISTERAnglo-German Summit

1. I have for some time been concerned that EDG isolation in the European Parliament is a significant handicap in furthering UK interest in the Parliament. It tends to give an unhelpful impression of UK isolation in the European Community. I think this is an important point you might usefully include in your discussions with Chancellor Kohl at your meeting with him this week.

2. Our current attempts to relaunch the Community, our discussions with Chancellor Kohl about the future of the European idea, and the European elections, make this an appropriate time to tackle this problem. After discussing this with a fair cross-section of our own MEPs, I think it unlikely that progress can be made at the level of the groups within the Parliament without some impetus from party leaders.

3. Of course, we are fighting these elections as Conservatives and it is essential there should be no suggestion that we intend to call ourselves something else after the elections. I know the Party Chairman shares this view. But I do not think this precludes our raising the matter with Chancellor Kohl, or your chosen representatives from discussing it subsequently in a very restricted and confidential framework. If the ground is not prepared, there is a risk that things will happen so quickly after the election that we will be excluded from or have a very limited influence on events including the election of the next President of the European Parliament.

/4.

Prime Minister

Content to raise these points with Chancellor Kohl?

Yes no

FERB

30.4

cc FERB
ASC



4. I suggest therefore that you raise the following points with Herr Kohl:

- (a) Immediately after the European elections important decisions will be taken on matters such as the new President of the Parliament and other important offices. These decisions should be co-ordinated between like-minded parties in the Parliament. We would like to work with our friends on this, and to do so some preparation if necessary, even in advance of the elections.
- (b) We want to see closer co-operation between our MEPs and our friends in other parties, to help advance the work you and we are doing to relaunch the Community. There is a need to look at ways of forming closer relationships within the Parliament, to symbolise the renewed impetus of Europe when we have resolved current problems.
- (c) We should ask personal representatives to meet soon and discuss what can be done. This should be on a strictly confidential basis.

5. We may wish to raise similar points with Mr Andreotti at some stage, but this needs further consideration and need not be discussed with Herr Kohl.

6. I have had a word with John Gummer and he agrees that this would be helpful. I am copying this minute to him and also writing to him separately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

30 April 1984