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NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH  
SECRETARY AND MR VAN DEN BROEK AT CHEQUERS ON 26 JANUARY

Also present: Mr Huydecoper (Ambassador of the Netherlands)  
Mr Posthumus Meyjes (Economic Director,  
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
Mr Margetson (United Kingdom Ambassador  
to the Netherlands)  
Mr D F Williamson

Enlargement of the Community

1. Mr van den Broek said that he was concerned that the Italian Presidency was not showing sufficient enthusiasm to bring the negotiations with Spain and Portugal to an early conclusion. If the Community did not conclude the outstanding points by the beginning of March, there was a risk that the date of accession would slip beyond 1 January 1986, with serious repercussions on the introduction of new finance (Own Resources) within the Community. He thought that the Community should now be prepared to modify its negotiating position on fisheries. The Netherlands could agree to a transitional period for fish which did not exceed ten years. In his view the present proposal made it quite certain that the transitional period for fish would be fifteen years, because Spain and Portugal would have little or no leverage to prevent the transitional period being rolled forward after ten years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that he did not share this analysis and did not agree that a change in the Community's position on the transitional period for fish was needed. It would be open to Spain to join other member states in working out adequate controls: in that case the transition could end after eight years. Furthermore, we had to ensure that, if negotiations broke down in the enlarged Community, the balance of the common fisheries policy was safeguarded until the date for revision was in sight. The



CONFIDENTIAL

United Kingdom was, however, examining certain changes - largely of a cosmetic character - in the presentation of the Community's position on fisheries and hoped to discuss these shortly with the Commission. Mr Posthumus Meyjes said that in his view a better presentation of the Community's offer in this way could be a useful element in the negotiation.

#### Polish Church agricultural scheme

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that the United Kingdom Government had taken a firm decision against participation in Community aid for this scheme. He recognised, of course, its value as a symbol but, taking into account that either the expenditure would grow substantially or the Polish Church would be disappointed, the United Kingdom did not think it right to start on this course. The competing demands for funds, for example for the Sahel, were great. Mr van den Broek said that the Netherlands had defined a number of conditions for its participation, in particular an assurance that the Polish Church would wholeheartedly support it (of which he was not absolutely sure), that the Foundation would be free to act without Polish Government intervention and that other countries and church/charitable institutions would also make significant contributions. He would like to be in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary again after the discussion among Foreign Ministers next week and when the views of the Polish Church leaders were more clearly known.

#### Management of Community aid projects

3. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that some of the Community's aid projects might not now be conducive to the sort of development we wanted to encourage. He had the impression that, particularly in Africa, there was now a much greater recognition of the need for more action at the grassroots rather than for more grandiose schemes. Mr van den Broek said that the Netherlands had recently reevaluated the effectiveness

CONFIDENTIAL



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of its own aid programme on these lines. In practice, the member states had little contact with the execution of programmes under the European Development Fund. He would consider whether there were ways in which monitoring could be improved.

#### Southern Africa

4. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that on Namibia there was mounting impatience in some Southern African countries that events were not moving forward. Whatever the public position, it was quite clear that Mr Kaunda and Mr Mugabe wanted the United States' initiative to continue and to make progress. It was important to maintain some pressure on South Africa. More generally, the United Kingdom was opposed to mandatory sanctions on South Africa, which it considered would be bad for the prospect of change. We must keep open the economic links but show that there were limits on what we considered acceptable. Mr van den Broek said that he had seen Bishop Tutu yesterday. Bishop Tutu considered that the Western democracies should step up political and economic pressure on South Africa and did not believe that sufficient change would come without the prospect of economic sanctions. The Netherlands recognised the strong feeling among their Community partners against economic sanctions and he had told Bishop Tutu that he did not think such sanctions were feasible. Nonetheless, it was important to find ways of convincing the South Africans to give a perspective of change. He was not convinced by the argument that sanctions would harm the black population of South Africa. The Netherlands had never advocated a complete cutting of economic links but he himself thought that there was a case for announcing some selective action in advance as a means of achieving some progress within South Africa. As this did not seem feasible he was considering in the meantime requiring Dutch companies operating in South Africa not only to comply with the code of conduct but also to report regularly on that compliance.



CONFIDENTIAL

UNESCO

5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that we should continue the pressure for reforms. Mr van den Broek said that it was not going well.

Middle East

6. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that the first stage of Israel's withdrawal from Southern Lebanon could give rise to serious security problems. Some kind of United Nations presence needed to be in place. This required a request from the Lebanese Government. Mr van den Broek said that he had received the same message from Mr Perez de Cuellar. The Netherlands agreed about a United Nations presence and would try to add to pressure on the Lebanese Government to make the request. The Netherlands would be helpful, while maintaining the principle on the deployment of its own forces within the United Nations presence that their role must be peace-keeping, not peace-enforcing. In any event Mr Perez de Cuellar was not asking the Netherlands for more. He understood that the Italians would probably be willing to increase their contribution.

D F WILLIAMSON

26 January 1985

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