



1 February 1985

Lady Young
Mr Rifkind
Mr Luce
Mr Raison
Mr Renton

LIAISON BETWEEN THE FCO AND THE PARTY

1. The Party Chairman and I recently had a thorough discussion of the Party aspects of foreign policy work and the international activities of the Party. We agreed on several specific points, and it may be useful to colleagues to have a record of them:

(a) We agreed that we should share as much information as possible. In particular, the Chairman has asked Central Office to bring us in at the planning stage of foreign visits so that we can advise on any sensitivities with countries concerned, and, where appropriate, make suggestions on the composition of delegations. In order to ensure that all channels are used for getting messages across and bringing them back, we will help as much as possible on briefing and de-briefing.

(b) Jim Spicer, Scott Hamilton, John Grieg, Donald Thompson, Richard Ryder and John Houston will meet regularly to share information and liaise on future events.

(c) The Chairman's office will copy to us, where appropriate, the reports which the Chairman makes to the Prime Minister on foreign contacts, or proposals for meetings between her and overseas visitors. We agreed that although there are quite a few Party visitors passing through London, often at short notice (because the IDU is London-based), we will have to ensure visitors understand that meetings with the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary cannot always be arranged.

/(d)

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



(d) We agreed on the importance of keeping in touch about IDU/EDU activities, since the wide range of international contacts which this network now provides is an important complement to the efforts of a Conservative Government to influence events abroad.

(e) We will seek to alert CCO to forthcoming visits of interest to them, and they will do the same for us.

(f) Adam Fergusson, who will start work here on 4 February as a second Special Adviser, will sit on the European Steering Committee which the Chairman has established. We agreed that all of us would try to use Mr Fergusson as a co-ordinating point on EC activities.

(g) I suggested, and the Chairman agreed, that we should make greater efforts to ensure that he, as a senior Minister, was invited to Government-organized functions where there were important foreign guests. This is something to which we should all give attention. We should also bear in mind the need to include MEPs in invitations.

2. I am copying this minute to John Gummer, the Chief Whip and Michael Alison.

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

GEOFFREY HOWE

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