

PRIME MINISTER

CONSERVATIVE BACKBENCH EUROPEAN REFORM
GROUP

1. The following Group of Conservative Backbenchers has been formed, for which the initiative has come (mainly) from Teddy Taylor and Tony Marlow.
2. The Group is not advocating the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the E.E.C.; it is calling for fundamental reform.

3. The present Members are:-

Teddy Taylor	Tony Beaumont Dark
Tony Marlow	Den Dover
Ronnie Bell	Jonathan Aitken
David Bevan	John Farr
John Blackburn	Peter Fry
Richard Body	Peter Griffiths
Nicholas Bonsor	Warren Hawksley
Michael Brown	Michael Latham
John Butcher	Roger Moate
John Carlisle	Albert McQuarrie
Gerry Neale	Matthew Parris
James Pawsey	Barry Porter
Harvey Proctor	Richard Shepherd
Bob Taylor	John Townend
Bill Walker	

17th November, 1980

Ian Gow

c.c. The Right Honourable Michael Jopling MP

Mr Gow

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE MEETING AND DRINKS TO BE GIVEN
BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CONSERVATIVE EUROPEAN REFORM GROUP
ON MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER 1980, FROM 7.15 PM TO 8.15 PM

The Prime Minister
Mr. Ian Gow, MP
Mr. Jonathan Aitken, MP
Mr. Anthony Baumont-Dark, MP
Sir Ronald Bell, MP
? Mr. David Bevan, MP
? Mr. John Blackburn, MP +
? Mr. Richard Body, MP
? Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP
Mr. Michael Brown, MP
Mr. John Browne, MP
? Mr. John Butcher, MP
? Mr. John Carlisle, MP
? Mr. Alan Clark, MP
? Mr. Geoffrey Dickens, MP
Mr. Den Dover, MP
? Mr. Robert Dunn, MP
Mr. John Farr, MP
Mr. Peter Fry, MP
Mr. Peter Griffiths, MP
Mr. Warren Hawksley, MP
Mr. Toby Jessel, MP
Mr. Peter Lloyd, MP
? Mr. Tony Marlowe, MP
Mr. Albert McQuarrie, MP
Mr. Roger Moate, MP
Mr. Gerry Neale, MP
Mr. Matthew Parris, MP
Mr. James Pawsey, MP

29

? Mr. Barry Porter, MP

? Mr. Richard Shepherd, MP

Mr. Tony Speller, MP

Mr. Teddy Taylor, MP

Mr. Neil Thorne, MP

Mr. John Townend, MP

Mr. Bill Walker, MP

Mr. Gary Waller, MP

36. Mr. Nicholas Winterton, MP

Secretary to the Group:

Mr. John Shepherd

TAYLOR, A. P.

From: Teddy Taylor, M.P.

INDEXED



18 DEC 1980

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th December, 1980.

R. Pich

Thank you for your letter of the 11th December and for your comments.

Of course the Group's policy is to achieve substantial improvements in our relationship with the E.E.C. within the framework of continued membership. We have taken every possible opportunity to stress this and honestly cannot be responsible for the attacks made on it or the content of these attacks.

As regards our aims we do believe these are entirely consistent with continued membership of the E.E.C. and we have endeavoured to establish from those who express a contrary view what their detailed objectives are.

The Rt.Hon. The Lord Thorneycroft, C.H.
Conservative & Unionist Central Office.
32, Smith Square,
S.W. 1P.

25th November, 1980

Thank you for your letter of 24th November, with which you enclosed a letter of the same date addressed to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister would, of course, be very pleased to meet you and your colleagues.

Caroline Stephens will be in touch with you about a date.

The Prime Minister hopes that you or your colleagues may be able to come over and have a drink here.

Ian Gow

Teddy Taylor, Esq., M.P.

51
4
From: Teddy Taylor, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th November, 1980.

Ian Gow Esq., M.P.,
PPS to Prime Minister,
House of Commons.

Dear Ian,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to the Prime Minister inviting her to meet the Conservative European Reform Group for Dinner or, if this is not possible, for a discussion. Naturally we would prefer a meeting over a meal and would guarantee to arrange a suitable venue for this in the vicinity of Westminster within hours of an acceptance in principle. Of course I would consult you immediately about the venue before finalising the arrangements.

I think that it would be most helpful to those who have joined together because of our concern regarding the economic and political consequences of Britain's present and projected relationship with the EEC if such a discussion could be arranged.

We/

We are of the opinion that the most helpful way of arranging such a discussion would be for our senior member to outline our fears and concern, for six other representative members to comment on particular aspects of the problem and thereafter for the Prime Minister to comment on what has been said. Naturally we would take your advice on this.

The one thing which has disturbed us since launching the Group has been the suggestion in one newspaper that we are disloyal to the Prime Minister. I think you will know that the membership of the Group (now over 40 strong) consists of true loyalists and that our record on loyalty compares rather favourably with the record in recent days of the so-called Euro-nuts!

If you would like to have a chat on the whole business when you have time, please don't hesitate to contact me. Not having a "pair" I am always here!

Yours,

Teddy

TAYLOR, N.R.

17th November, 1980

Conservative European Reform
Group

Thank you so much for having put on
the Board a list of the 30 Members of this new
Group.

I would be grateful if you could please
keep in touch about this.

IAN GOW

Teddy Taylor, Esq. M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster, London SW1

TAYLOR, T.P.

FILE

LPO



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 December, 1980

Dear Tedds,

Thank you for your letter of
27 November about our meeting on
15 December.

I am grateful to you for letting
me have the background to the office
bearers for the Conservative European
Reform meeting and I take the point
that Sir Nicholas Bonsor will be acting
as Chairman when you all come.

Yours

Teddy Taylor

Teddy Taylor, Esq., M.P.

RH.

R28
115
From: Teddy Taylor, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th November, 1980.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of the 26th November and for so readily agreeing to meet the members of the Conservative European Reform Group.

I reported your kind suggestion to the meeting last night, which was attended by 32 of the 42 members, and they were unanimous in expressing their pleasure and gratitude. I shall, of course, advise Caroline Stephens of the list of members who will be attending as soon as possible.

I think I should also let you know that we considered the question of office bearers for the forthcoming session at the meeting. The members kindly suggested that I should continue to act as Chairman, but I made it clear that if the reforming nature of the group was to be emphasized, it would be best if the Chairman or Leader of the Group was not someone like myself who was labelled, rightly or wrongly, as an anti marketeer. After discussion it was eventually agreed that Sir Nicholas Bonsor should be appointed as interim Convener or Chairman of the Group, and that there should be a small executive committee to advise him consisting of myself, Richard Shepherd, Peter Fry, Peter Lloyd, Tony Marlow and Bill Walker.

These appointments are interim ones as it was felt that the continuing growth of the Group made it wise for us to postpone final appointments until the size of the group membership became clear. These appointments will be made early in January, but I am sure that Nicholas Bonsor will represent us well in the interim and probably thereafter.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

- 2 -

In these circumstances the Group on 15th December will be led by Nicholas Bonsor and I thought I should let you know this.

We will look forward to our chat on the 15th December and I am only sorry that life is so very hectic for you these days.

*Yours
Teddy.*

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
S.W. 1.

[Sir I. Gilmour.]
Member for Stepney and Poplar (Mr. Shore) that he was on rather weak ground in complaining, bearing in mind the total lack of achievement of his party when in office. I agree most strongly with the first part of my hon. Friend's question. In an ever more dangerous world the unity of Europe is vital to us all.

Mr. Donald Stewart: In view of the breaking of the promise made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 24 April that there would be a veto on any increase in farm prices on items in structural surplus, what prospect is there now that the fishermen will not be betrayed in the forthcoming talks? Is he aware that if that occurs there will be the most serious developments?

Sir I. Gilmour: That is hardly worthy of the right hon. Gentleman. He knows full well that the Government have the interests of our fishermen fully in mind. We have safeguarded those interests until now and we shall continue to do so.

Mr. Moate: Does my right hon. Friend agree that by the standards set by the renegotiations entered into by the Labour Government and by the standards set in the original negotiations, the Government, and especially my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, have produced a remarkable achievement? However, judged by British interests, do not the very nature of the concessions that have been made—the move away from broad balance and the concessions on food prices—mean that Britain is still getting a very bad bargain? Will my right hon. Friend answer the question of my hon. Friend the Member for Harborough (Mr. Farr) on New Zealand? The agreement is vague about New Zealand. Will he give an absolute assurance that there will be no diminution of New Zealand lamb imports into Britain?

Sir I. Gilmour: I cannot agree with my hon. Friend. I do not think that the agreement on New Zealand lamb is at all vague. It seems to be strikingly specific. My right hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will be going into greater detail about that later. I cannot agree that we have achieved a bad bargain. If we had been starting from scratch, no doubt different results would have been obtained but, we were not. We

have achieved a considerable amount. Of course, we have made concessions, in any negotiations that is bound to happen. However, as has been said from both sides of the House, our partners have made considerable concessions.

Mr. Jay: Has the right hon. Gentleman yet read the sentence in the communiqué that indicates that the proposed fundamental review must not call in question the principles of the common agricultural policy?

Sir I. Gilmour: I have. If the right hon. Gentleman will remind himself of what those principles are, in the Treaty, I think that he will be greatly reassured.

Mr. Myles: Does my right hon. Friend agree that there is no automatic mechanical link between the prices that were negotiated for agricultural produce in Europe and the prices in the shops in Britain?

Sir I. Gilmour: My hon. Friend is entirely right. It may be helpful if I say again that the average 5 per cent. increase in prices will add only 0.7 per cent. to the food price index—in other words, a very small amount.

Mr. Dalyell: Will the right hon. Gentleman clarify two matters in his original statement? First, in relation to the financial mechanism, he said that there was the possibility of advance payments taking into account that we would not be paid before the end of the financial year 1980-81 for the 1980 payments. Unless that is in black and white, what real possibility is there of advance payments?

Secondly, will the right hon. Gentleman accept from one who was a member of the Budget Committee of the indirectly elected European Assembly that on endless occasions we have heard about a major review of the budget? What will that major review achieve? There is no way of having a non-cosmetic major review without hurting various countries, which may refuse to be hurt.

Sir I. Gilmour: I agree that there is no way of ensuring that we get early repayment. However, we are bound to get repayment in our own financial year as opposed to the calendar year. This will help some of our partners. The

Conservative European Reform Group

It has been agreed to form a group in Parliament which will consist of Conservative members who support the following statement:

"We believe in the urgent need for fundamental reform of the Common Market in the interest of securing genuine European co-operation based on the partnership of nation-states. It is our belief that the present structure of the EEC is damaging to the interests of the UK and that this situation will persist until substantial and fundamental changes are made either in the basic structure of the Common Market or else in the relationship that Britain has with the Community. With the Community reaching the limits of its financial resources and approaching its imminent enlargement this is clearly the right opportunity to secure the necessary change. In particular we believe that there is an urgent need to adopt policies directed to:

- A) The ending of the C.A.P. and the restoration to national governments of control over agriculture policy.
- B) The reform of the system of financing the Community budget to take account of the ending of the C.A.P. and to ensure that no member state has to carry an unfair share of expenditure as Britain has done since joining the EEC.
- C) The restoration to each member state of the right to take action on unfair trading practices, such as dumping, by third countries.
- D) The reassertion of the power of national Parliaments over the institutions of the Community.

507

From: Teddy Taylor

TAYLOR
MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th Dec.

no

Dear Prime Minister,

A short note to thank you
for your hospitality and kindness when
you met the members of the Reform
Group on Monday.

I know that all those I
spoke to afterwards were delighted
to have the opportunity of expressing
their views to you and I hope that
the meeting was a help in clarifying
the objects of the Group.

With all good wishes.

Yours, Teddy