

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

MR IAN GOW

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

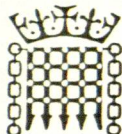
You may be amused to read the enclosed correspondence which was passed between Richard Shepherd and Anthony Meyer. You will see that Teddy Taylor and his lackeys are creating a good deal of irritation around the House.

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

11 December 1980



FROM: RICHARD SHEPHERD M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10 December, 1980.

Dear Sir Anthony,

Until taking over the Secretaryship of the European Affairs Committee I was unaware that you are Convenor for a Group of what you term Pro EEC colleagues, and that you have engaged a former Senior Foreign Office Official Mr. Michael Cullis. I note that his Terms of Reference are "To collate relevant briefing material, boil it down into digestible form and make it available to colleagues".

You may know that along with a number of other colleagues I am a member of the European Reform Group, which was formed to seek positive ways in which the structure of the Community could be reformed compatible with our continuing Membership. It is a view held by some that our present passivity in originating detailed programmes for reform is leading to alienation of support for our continuing Membership.

I venture the view, solely on my own part and without reference either to my colleagues in the European Reform Group or on the European Affairs Committee, that perhaps your assistant, Mr. Cullis, and your Group, could work together to identify a coherent framework for the changes in direction and emphasis that Britain should be seeking within the EEC, and which changes will be inevitable with the accession of Greece and the enlargement to embrace Spain and Portugal. My own feeling is that critical analysis will be more supportive of Membership in the long-run than the uncritical subservience of some who are perhaps wrongly identified as Euro Fanatics.

I am copying this letter to the members of your Group and also to the members of the European Reform Group.

Signed by Richard Shepherd

Sir Anthony Meyer, M.P.  
The House of Commons,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA



When I spoke to you in the lobby this afternoon I did not realise that you had distributed a large number of copies of your letter to me. In these circumstances perhaps I should reply in writing.

As a convinced supporter of the Government's policy on Europe I have for long been concerned that the opponents of the EEC were all too often getting the best of it in debates in the Chamber. I therefore decided to take on a research assistant, paid for out of my secretarial allowance, to provide me with briefing on the various EEC topics as they come up; and I have also arranged to make this briefing available to colleagues, who, like me, support the Government's policy on the EEC. I hope you are not trying to advise me on how I should employ my own research assistant.

Since, I understand, Teddy Taylor has been making enquiries as to how I finance my research assistant, you may care to pass a copy of this letter to him, and I enclose an extra one for the purpose.

(Anthony Meyer)

Richard Shepherd, M.P.

identified as Euro Fanatics