



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 June 1980

MRP

Paul

Foreign Policy

cc Michael

British Council

attached

Thank you for your letter of 4 June about the British Council.

Peter Blaker spoke to Tony Kershaw on 5 June. He does indeed have an Early Day Motion in his pocket which supports the British Council and calls on the Government to provide the necessary funds for its activities. It has been approved by Geoffrey Rippon and Tony has sought the support for it of other officers of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Tony agreed with Peter when he suggested that it would be quite improper to launch this Motion just after the Prime Minister had met Sir Charles Troughton. Peter thinks he has taken the point that pressure now from our own back benchers criticising the Government could very well rebound to the disadvantage of the British Council. So we are fairly confident that we will not come under pressure for the time being. Tony also told Peter that he would speak to John Burgh, the new Director General of the British Council, to caution him against the Council inspiring any campaign against cuts at present.

In my view all this underlines the importance of following up the Prime Minister's view expressed at our meeting on 3 June that we should agree, and quickly inform the Council, that we will ensure that their core budget does not fall below £38 million in the financial year 1983/84. Since Sir Charles himself suggested that figure to the Prime Minister he can hardly do other than call off his campaign if it is accepted. I am therefore sending copies of this letter and yours to the Prime Minister and our other colleagues who were at last Tuesday's meeting.

z
Pdc

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP (CARRINGTON)

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP

PCB 410/2


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- 5 JUN 1980

Government Chief Whip

DESK OFFICER 12 Downing Street, London SW1

INDEX PA



PS/Mr Blaker

cc PS PS/LP1

PS/Mr Harnd

PS/POS

4 June 1980

5/6

[Handwritten signature]

I understand that Tony Kershaw was overheard on Tuesday saying that the British Council would soon be starting to lean heavily on our Backbench MPs to support their cause against the cuts.

As I said at our meeting at No 10 yesterday, it is very important that ^{SIR CHARLES} ~~Mr~~ Troughton gives undertakings to desist from this sort of pressure and that Tony Kershaw is calmed down.

[Handwritten signature]

The Rt Hon Lord Carrington PC GCMG GCVO CBE
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
SW1A 2AL

1. Acknowledged
 2. Ministerial action has been taken
 3. **CRD**
- advice and draft reply from
Secretary of State

CONFIDENTIAL
FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

PRIME MINISTER

BRITISH COUNCIL

Ans 2
Foreign
① Mr Alexander
② PRIME MINISTER
Blundy
To see
MS
20/6
ms

Anthony Kershaw came to see me this afternoon to discuss the attached Early Day Motion which has been signed by all Officers of the Foreign Affairs Committee, all Officers of the Media Committee and one Officer of the Trade Committee, so far. I understand the he is doing this on the instigation of the British Council. He has agreed to hold it in abeyance for the time being, as I have told him that the Government hopes shortly to come to a decision on this matter.

I thought, therefore, that it would be helpful for you and the copy addressees to be aware of this, particularly in view of the proposals contained in the Cabinet Secretary's minute to you of 17 June. Copies go to the recipients of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute.

18 June 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

19 JUN 1980

