

Euro Council Pt 12

Prime Minister

PRESS CONFERENCE/INTERVIEWS

You have agreed to give a press conference when the Council is over then to give the usual short news interviews to BBC radio and TV, IRN and ITN.

2. You have also agreed to give BBC radio a short comment on the 10th anniversary of our accession for use later. IRN would like to get a similar comment from you. A speaking note (which you have already seen) is at Annex II.

3. The press conference will be held in the press centre which is housed in an adjacent converted fish warehouse. The radio and TV studio is on the first floor so you will have a short walk through the centre after the press conference to your interviews.

4. I will chair the press conference and select the questioners. I suggest 30 minutes is ample and I will close it promptly. We shall not be able to confine it to British journalists.

5. I suggest we meet in the UK Delegation's office before you go to the press centre.

SUBSTANCE

6. This has been a difficult Council to present because the main debate - on the economic and social situation - rambled on without much form or substance; and because the fish and budget

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controversies slid away from the media. The main issue has become protectionism. I would expect this to be the main topic at your press conference because it can be projected forward to the Shultz meeting with the Commission next week - a meeting which is assuming considerable importance in journalists' eyes.

7. As you know, President Mitterand is meeting the press at 1030. We shall give you a line upon what he says.

8. Your press conference might however take place before the Presidency meets the media. You may therefore have a reasonably clear field to present the Council on your terms.

9. I attach at Annex I a speaking note for your press conference based on the draft conclusions you considered at 9a.m.

#### POINTS OF MEDIA ATTACK

10. The points the media are likely to raise in questions, under the main topic headings are:

##### Unemployment/Protectionism

- How do you reconcile your concern to protect industries from the Japanese with your commitment to free trade?
- In spite of all your protestations, are you not inevitably sliding into protectionism?

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- Why, in view of the importance of the Shultz meeting next week, did you apparently spend so little time on the transatlantic trade dimension and threat of a world trade war?
- What has the Council achieved in view of Mitterand's protectionism and Thorn's apparent plan to protect high technology industries in the EC?

Fish

- Do you see next week's/December 21st meetings going into further negotiations?
- Will the Danish give in? Will you have to order the Royal Navy in? Has our fishery protection force been halved for economic reasons?

Budget

- What do you mean in expecting good progress to have been made before the next Council? Do you want it settled by then? If not what will you do?

Enlargement

- Have you developed the momentum you hoped to achieve?
- Any action on Spanish car tariffs?

East/West

- What are the prospects for the Andropov era? And in Poland, Afghanistan?

- Would you care to rise to Mr Foot's bait and make some comment on President Reagan's MX missiles densepack plan?

Middle East

- Arab League Delegation. Will you ever see PLO?
- Will you join the Lebanese peace force?

Other topics arising today

- Spy - Why did you not announce expulsion of Russian Naval Attaché?
- Butter Sales to Russia, since a British Commission official is quoted today as defending them.
- Coalition Will you, as Mr St John Stevas suggests, form a coalition with SDP/Liberal Alliance and introduce proportional representation to stay in office?

*Burham*

4.12.82