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MR POWELL

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S EUROPE

The Committee on People's Europe has now reached agreement on its second and final report which will be submitted to the European Council in Milan. It covers the remaining areas set out in the mandate from the European Council at Fontainebleau and in the programme which the Committee submitted to the Dublin European Council. These are: citizens' rights; culture and communication; information; youth, education, exchanges and sport; volunteer development work in the Third World; health, social security and drugs; and the image and identity of the Community. We consider that this report meets the United Kingdom objectives. There are some Greek and one United Kingdom reservation (on the proposed Eurolotto).

2. Throughout the discussions I sought to put the emphasis on practical improvements which could benefit the individual citizen and to treat as subsidiary the various symbolic points to which other members of the Committee attached importance. I recommend that, if it were necessary to comment on the report before the European Council, we should say:-

(i) this report, which has not yet been considered by the European Council, deals with a whole range of practical points of concern to individual citizens. We support the need to ease administrative formalities and to facilitate contacts between people in the European Community, to the benefit of the individual citizen and the completion of the common market;

(ii) in particular, we welcome the recommendations on the simplification of Community law; "the gradual abandonment both of Community and national legal acts in areas where they are no longer necessary"; the need to "implement

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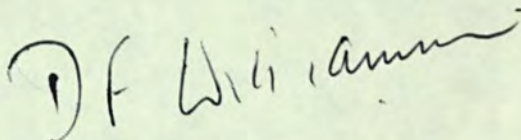
Community law fully, simply and swiftly"; improvements in information about the Community; language teaching; exchanges between schools; university cooperation; vocational training; exchanges of young people; town twinning; combatting hooliganism at sports events (other references to Community teams or events are not directed to governments but are presented for the consideration of sports associations); voluntary work in Third World development; the simplification of procedures for getting medical care when abroad; and intensified action against drug abuse;

(iii) we attach importance to real and practical improvements rather than symbolic gestures. We note that the reference to such issues as emblem and flag (Community to adopt the existing Council of Europe design with the letter E, as already used by the Commission), anthem and stamps do no more than consolidate the existing practice.

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3. I attach a summary of the recommendations.

4. I am sending copies to Janet Lewis-Jones (Office of the Lord President of the Council), Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Taylor (Home Office), Rachel Lomax (Treasury), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), Ballard (Department of the Environment), Godber (Department of Health and Social Security), Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Thomas (Office of the Minister for the Arts), Lewis (Office of the Minister without Portfolio) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.



D F WILLIAMSON

19 June 1985

## SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S EUROPE

1. elections to the European Parliament. The uniform electoral procedure should be introduced, in accordance with the Treaty obligation, as soon as possible. Failing this, the Committee recommends that citizens should be entitled to vote either in their country of residence or for candidates of their own country.

Comment - the text is consistent with the United Kingdom's practice; it refers specifically to a citizen's entitlement to vote if he is resident "for a period of time" in another member state.

2. greater openness in Community administration. While supporting the existing right of petition to the European Parliament, the report suggests that the European Parliament could investigate whether there would be a role for an ombudsman. The Committee itself makes no recommendation on this point.

3. voting in local elections. This, as the report makes clear, is entirely a matter for national jurisdiction. But some member states either enfranchise, or intend to enfranchise, nationals of other Community member states in local elections (as we do more generally for the Irish). The Committee simply suggests that discussions should go on without making any recommendation.

4. other rights and consultation. Citizens of other member states should enjoy the same rights as the country's own nationals to freedom of speech and assembly. The views of resident citizens from other member states should be heard on issues of particular concern to them, and on transfrontier questions the views of all those concerned should be heard on matters such as environment, transport and citizens' health and safety.

Comment - the United Kingdom does not restrict in a discriminatory way the rights of speech or assembly of the nationals of

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Community member states (Greece, however, does restrict rights of assembly and to organise). There are very adequate opportunities in the United Kingdom for resident citizens of other member states to make their views known on points of special importance to them.

5. simplifying law and administration in the Community. Steps should be taken to accelerate the systematic simplification of Community law. There should be gradual abandonment both of national and Community legal acts in areas where they are no longer necessary. Member states should implement Community law fully, simply and swiftly.

Comment - this is right in line with United Kingdom objectives on deregulation.

6. the Community model driving licence should be available from 1 January 1986.

Comment - this is a requirement of Directive 80/1263.

7. consular cooperation. There should be increased consular cooperation between member states in third countries.

Comment - United Kingdom initiative.

8. television co-productions. European television co-productions should be encouraged.

Comment - the Committee does not opt for one method or another but refers specifically to the British-backed proposal for allotment by television programme organisations themselves of some of their funds for such co-productions.

9. 1988 should be European film and television year in celebration of 100 years of film making.

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10. legal and technical steps should be taken so that citizens have access to television programmes broadcast within the Community "taking into account the differing situations that exist in these fields" and there should be further consideration of building on the experiments in joint television.

11. there should be a European Academy of Science, Technology and Art.

Comment - This is a slightly broader version of the United Kingdom's initiative in the Council of Europe.

12. the Commission should examine whether there is scope for organising a Euro-lottery to finance projects in the field of culture.

Comment - United Kingdom reservation since this is not in accordance with our practice of not operating state lotteries.

13. special conditions for admission of the young to museums etc should be available to young people from all member states.

Comment - charging for museums etc is much more widespread on the continent than in the United Kingdom.

14. the effectiveness of information about the Community should be improved.

15. there are a number of specific recommendations on language teaching and visits to other member states which are in line with the guidelines adopted by the Ministers for Education on 4 June 1984.

16. school exchanges should be fostered and a central information point should be available.

Comment - this is already the United Kingdom practice.

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17. there should be a pilot programme for work camps for young people.

18. the conclusions of the Ministers of Education on 3 June 1985 on a European dimension in education should be supported and 9 May should be considered as Europe Day in schools.

Comment - this is broadly in line with a similar initiative by the Council of Europe.

19. the universities and the higher education establishments should be invited to improve cooperation within the Community and the possibility should be examined of a European academic transfer system on the lines of that which has proved successful in the United States.

20. member states should seek to ensure that young people wishing to do so receive one year, or if possible, 2 years vocational training in addition to compulsory education.

Comment - this is already our objective.

21. there should be a Europe exchange scheme for young people and professionals.

22. sports associations in certain sectors should be invited to consider whether European events might be organised, Community teams created or the Community emblem worn in addition to national colours.

Comment - these are matters for the sports associations.

23. concerted action should be stepped up on combatting violence at sports events.

Comment - specific points are in line with those which are being pressed ahead with as a result of the recent meeting of sports Ministers in Amsterdam.

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24. voluntary development work in the Third World should be encouraged and there should be a Community pilot action for trainee development workers.

Comment - the United Kingdom has always considered voluntary development workers a cost-effective method of responding to these problems.

25. any emergency health card issued by member states which agree to take part in such action should be in a uniform format.

Comment - the United Kingdom is not in favour of the emergency health card and we are not committed to take part in it. A number of other member states will almost certainly issue such cards.

26. the procedures for obtaining medical care when abroad should be simplified, including a further look at the unpopular E111 certificate.

27. there are specific recommendations on further cooperation against drug abuse, including strong support for the Pompidou group, cooperation between judiciary and police authorities and, where appropriate, with third countries.

28. the encouragement of town twinning.

29. identity of the Community. The Community needs an emblem, for example for international trade exhibitions and similar occasions. The Community flag and emblem should be that already used by the Council of Europe with the letter E, as is already the practice of the Commission. The European anthem from Beethoven's 9th is already used at European events. Postal organisations should consider national issues commemorating important Community events and should study the possibility of having a single internal tariff for all Community destinations. Signs at Community borders, particularly internal frontiers,

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should be re-examined (eg customs signs) so that they more correctly reflect the progress of a genuine common market.

Comment - these proposals do no more than consolidate the existing practice. The flag and anthem are already used to some extent and there have already been national commemorative issues of stamps with a common theme, eg on the first direct elections to the European Parliament.