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PCA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June 1985

Dear Colin,

Herr Teltschik from the Federal Chancellery in Bonn telephoned me shortly before 1.00 pm today. The purpose of his call was to inform me that the German Government would announce this afternoon that they had prepared the text of a draft Treaty on European Union, had agreed it with the French Government, and that Chancellor Kohl would be tabling it at the European Council in Milan tomorrow morning. He would try to ensure that we received a copy this afternoon. The Treaty drew upon the ideas on political cooperation which the Prime Minister had put to Chancellor Kohl but went further than that.

I said that I took an extremely dim view of this message. The Prime Minister had taken the Chancellor into her confidence at a very early stage. She had shared her ideas with him and asked for the German Government's comments. She had done so before discussing her ideas with any other Government. Now we were suddenly informed, less than 24 hours before the beginning of the European Council, that the Germans and the French had agreed a text which we had not even seen or been consulted about. It seemed to me that we were being very shabbily treated. I thought that the Prime Minister would justifiably feel that the Chancellor had failed to reciprocate the confidence which she had placed in him.

Teltschik became rather defensive. The Germans had always made clear to us that they would want to go further than our ideas, and would want a Treaty. All he was talking of was a proposal which could form the mandate for an inter-governmental conference. The Chancellor's recent message and his own talk with Sir Julian Bullard earlier this week had been intended to convey German intentions. Consultation with the French had been imperative since if they were not in agreement nothing could be achieved. I said that I was not talking about the substance of the German proposals, indeed could not do so since we had not

yet seen them. For all I knew they might in large part be acceptable to us. My strong feelings were based on the procedure which had been followed of producing a text behind our backs and agreeing it with the French without making any attempt to consult us. Speaking personally, I thought it a black day for our co-operation.

I am copying this letter to David Williamson in the Cabinet Office.

yours sincerely,
Charles Powell
(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.