



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

D/S of S/126/85

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9th September 1985

de *Edwards*

When you came to see me on 17th July you raised the Parliamentary Maritime Group's invitation to Sir John Fieldhouse to address them. I promised to reconsider my decision that it would not be appropriate for Sir John to accept the invitation.

I explained, however, that my reason for reaching the decision had been the simple one of wishing to avoid establishing a precedent. The practice in this Department has been that Ministers, not Chiefs of Staff, are responsible for explaining Government policy, particularly in fora of a mainly political nature - and I think that you would agree that Sir John's audience at a meeting of the Parliamentary Maritime Group would certainly be a political one. Were he to address the Group, it would be difficult subsequently to refuse similar requests from other groups without drawing possibly invidious distinctions between the merits of the claims (and I would expect there to be many) on the Chiefs' time. Having reconsidered the matter carefully, I remain of the view that

The Rt Hon Sir Edward du Cann MP



this risk of creating an undesirable precedent is such that I should still prefer Sir John not to speak to your Group, although I know that this will be a disappointment to you and your colleagues.

You may have noticed that George Foulkes asked a written question about the Group's invitation shortly before the Recess, and I have now written to him in similar terms.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "MH" followed by a flourish.

Michael Heseltine

From; The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward du Cann, KBE, M.P.

120/55
EP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd October 1985

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sir Edward du Cann".

THE PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP

Thank you for your letter of the 9th September regarding our invitation to the First Sea Lord to speak to the Parliamentary Maritime Group about his perception of the maritime scene as he reached the end of his tenure of that office (now the senior appointment within government that represents the purely naval point of view, as opposed to the wider total defence spectrum he must cover as Chief of Defence Staff; no Minister is concerned only with naval affairs.)

What we wanted was a personal view of the Navy and the maritime defence scene in the national and NATO contexts, in no way a political, partizan statement, nor in any way going beyond the normal restrictions nowadays applying to every senior officer or permanent civil servant while still in office. The First Sea Lord and other senior officers have to speak to numerous open audiences outside their service or department, and it is perfectly well understood that what they say must be cleared beforehand by Ministers and officials at levels appropriate to the position of the officer concerned. No one expects such people to go beyond the limitations of their offices, or to engage in political controversy, most particularly if it is likely to be contrary to current government policy.

All this is well tried practice, very well understood and I am indeed surprised if you have any qualms about what an officer of Sir John's standing and reputation might say to an open audience of whatever composition. I am sure that applies equally to any of the Chiefs of Staff or to the CDS: it surely applies also to many at much lower levels.

But quite apart from the position of the First Sea Lord, I must strongly disagree that this Group is a 'political' one in the sense you infer. When I wrote to you in the Spring, I enclosed a copy of a memorandum dated 25th April which our Secretary prepared for me. The Group is only 'political' in the sense that it currently has 100 members from the Houses at Westminster and the one in Europe; since April we have invited outside organisations and companies to join, and these will eventually total about the same number as there are Parliamentary members, the number of them also likely to increase. Colleagues and I are taking special care to maintain

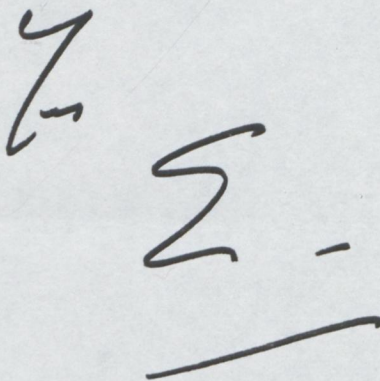
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the all-party non-political nature of the Group's activities, on exactly the same lines as the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee has operated for almost 50 years. I am not aware that the Committee has ever over-stepped the mark and embarrassed the Government of the day, nor led to other bodies doing so on the strength of the P. & S. Committee's own activities. I as Chairman and the other officers are very anxious that the Group sticks to its purpose of keeping members better informed on a vital field of national interest; the other purpose is to provide better contact with people and organisations engaged in the maritime activities, by far the majority of them outside the defence field.

There is no question of creating any kind of risky precedent that differs from established similar Groups within Parliament. These Groups fall somewhere between Select Committees (which can demand the attendance of anyone including Ministers) and numerous back-bench party committees which of course cannot. These Groups registered under the new Services Committee rules, have clear constitutions and all-party officers, usually from both Houses. They are in no way comparable with the informal groups that proliferate and usually only exist for a short time.

I must ask you to look at this decision again, as an important matter of principle is involved. We would probably not now wish to invite Sir John, who has moved on to be CDS, but we may well wish to invite someone of equal status in the future, not necessarily from the defence field.

I know my Committee will wish me to take this matter further if you are not prepared to withdraw your refusal to grant permission.



Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, M.P.,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1.

From the Rt Hon Sir Edward du Cann, KBE, MP ^{Acked.} ^{US(AF)}



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

April 25, 2985

Rt Hon Michael

I enclose a paper about the Parliamentary Maritime Group. It is, I hope, a very responsible body formed on the same basis as the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

We would very much like the outgoing First Sea Lord to come and address us and I hope this can be agreed.

May I come and see you to discuss the matter?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Heseltine".

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
Whitehall, SW1A 2HB

THE PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP

M.L.R.

25th April 1985.

The All-Party Parliamentary Maritime Group (PMG) was formed last July following an initiative by Mr. James Callaghan, Dr. David Owen and Mr. (now Sir) Edward du Cann. The Aims and Objects and // Constitution of the Group (attached) have been modelled directly on those of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, which was formed in 1939. That all-party body presently comprises 83 members of the Lords, 125 of the Commons, 28 of the European Parliament, together with representatives of 155 scientific and technical organisations and of 67 companies and undertakings.

The all-party Parliamentary Maritime Group presently comprises exactly 100 Members of both Houses at Westminster and of the / European Parliament (list attached). Its first Officers are:

Chairman	Sir Edward du Cann KBE	
Deputy Chairmen	Mr. John Silkin	Lord Kennet
Honorary Secretaries	Mr. Jonathan Sayeed	Lord Greenway
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Richard Ottaway	
1st Vice-President		Lord Campbell of Croy

(Still to be appointed are: President, additional Vice-Presidents (up to 9), and an additional Honorary Secretary from the outside members; see below).

Outside members in the categories described in the Constitution are about to be invited to join, but it is intended to ensure that their total number does not exceed that of the Parliamentary Members.

Now that the Services Committee of the Commons has settled the arrangements for these bodies, the PMG is now being formally registered as "The all-party Parliamentary Maritime Group."

It is important to emphasize that its purpose is to enable Members of Parliament to be better informed and more up-to-date on Maritime issues, and to provide them with access to many in the various Maritime Activities who can help them on particular matters. The Group is not a Lobby, nor does it seek to have a Group View, though it will of course alert ministers from time to time to matters of national interest or importance that appear to need appropriate actions by Government.

So far the PMG has held meetings on the following subjects:

Does London have a future as a World Maritime Centre?
by Mr. Roy Farndon, Editor of 'Lloyd's List.'

The Origins, Current Activities and Future of the Baltic Exchange.
by Mr. Peter Tudball, Managing Director,
Graig Shipping plc.

Why Britain should adhere to the International Convention on the Law of the Sea.
by Dr. Patricia Birnie, Law Department, LSE.

The National Hydrographic Requirements.
by Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, Hydrographer of the Navy.

What future for British Merchant Shipping?
by Mr. W.N. Menzies-Wilson, President of GCBS.

Seminar on Co-ordination and Development of Maritime Policy within Government.
Presentation organised by the British Maritime League. Speakers: Commander M.B.F. Ranken, Director; Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin and Lady Kennet.

The Vital Roles of Sensible Technical Standards in the cause of Ship and Offshore Safety and Progress.
by Mr. H.R. MacLeod, Chairman, Lloyd's Register.

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25th April 1985.

The Current and Future Work of the International Maritime Organisation.
by Mr. C.P. Srivastava, Secretary-General of IMO.

May meeting: Consequences and Opportunities for Fisheries of Spain
and Portugal joining the Community.

Speakers: James Provan MEP, Willie Hay, President, Scottish
Fisherimen's Federation, Mr. Neil McKellar,
Sea Fish Industries Authority.

The Group wishes to have a presentation by the outgoing First
Sea Lord before he becomes Chief of the Defence Staff, he now being
the only senior figure within the Ministry of Defence who represents
only the Royal Navy. It is of course understood that any presentation
that he makes is at the non-political level related only to his
perception of the Service as it is today, and in the light of current
developments.

It should be pointed out that Ministers (including Prime Ministers)
have addressed the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee over many
years, and one of these was Mr. Geoffrey Pattie in 1983 on the
Falklands Experience. But it has also been addressed by senior Civil
Servants (including Sir Peter Carey, when Permanent Secretary of the
Department of Industry) and by the heads of major organisations and
establishments, some of them in the Defence field. The Chairman of
the Manpower Services Commission was the latest speaker on 23rd
April.

It is to be hoped that in due course Ministers responsible for
Maritime Matters will address the PMG, but an appropriate current
issue has not so far arisen. The invitation to the First Sea Lord
at this time is because of his imminent departure from that post.

M.B.F. Ranken.

M.B.F. Ranken.
Secretary.

Enclosures: Aims and Objects.
Constitution.
List of Members.

THE PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The Parliamentary Maritime Group is an unofficial non-Party group of Members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament and representatives of business, industrial, professional, academic and other organisations formed with the object of providing a permanent liaison between Parliament and the Nation's vital maritime industries and activities.

The Group aims amongst other things:

1. To provide Members of Parliament with relevant authoritative information prior to debates on or affecting national maritime interests.
2. To bring to the notice of Members of Parliament and Government Departments developments or events in the maritime field which bear upon questions of public interest or importance.
3. To arrange for suitable action through parliamentary channels whenever necessary to ensure that proper notice is taken of maritime interests and the marine point of view in formulating policy and taking decisions.
4. To examine legislation, international conventions, and related regulations and actions affecting maritime activities and interests, and take such actions as may be suitable.
5. To watch the funding of research and development, education and training relevant to the marine scene.
6. To provide its members and other approved subscribers with regular summaries of maritime and marine-related matters dealt with in Parliament.

THE PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP

CONSTITUTION

1. OFFICERS: The Officers of the Group shall consist of:-
- (a) A President (to be a Member of either House of Parliament);
 - Vice-Presidents (to be a maximum of nine);
 - A Chairman (to be a Member of either House of Parliament);
 - A Vice-Chairman;
 - Two Deputy-Chairmen (to be members of either House of Parliament);
 - Three Honorary Secretaries (two to be Members of either House of Parliament);
 - An Honorary Treasurer.

The above officers to be elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Group, no officer (except Vice-Presidents) being eligible for re-election to any office which he has occupied consecutively for three years. This three year rule may be waived in respect of any office if the Group Committee recommends that special circumstances justify such a course.

Two Vice-Presidents shall retire by rotation every year, and these two retiring Vice-Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election unless the Group Committee recommends that special circumstances justify such a course.

- (b) A Secretary appointed by the Group Committee and responsible for all administrative matters, the compilation of "The Sea in Parliament", etc. to be remunerated at such rate as the Group Committee may decide yearly.
2. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP: Any Organisation or Society with principal interests in the sea and any member of either House of Parliament or British Member of the European Parliament shall be eligible to be elected as a member by the Group Committee on the following terms:-
- (a) Qualifications
 - (i) An organisation or society shall be eligible for election by the Group Committee if the latter is satisfied that it is either:-
 - A National Institution or Association for professional people, or
 - A Research Organisation, or
 - A body, the special position of which in the maritime life of the country makes its membership, in the opinion of the Group Committee, desirable in order to advance the agreed objects of the Parliamentary Maritime Group.

In reaching a decision with regard to eligibility regard shall be had to the extent to which the maritime interests represented by the applicant organisation is already adequately represented on the Group.
 - (ii) The Group Committee may also elect up to a maximum of 70 'Associate Members' such maximum being subject to modification at any subsequent Annual Meeting. Such members in the first place shall be approved by the Steering Committee as being Industrial Companies registered in the U.K. or U.K. nationalised Undertakings. In recommending the name of any company or undertaking for election as an Associate

PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP CONSTITUTION

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by the Group Committee shall be available at a price to be decided later to members and to non-members.

The prices of rates set out in this paragraph may be modified at any Annual Meeting and thereafter set out in a separate schedule.

3. GROUP COMMITTEE: The Group Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Committee as defined in paragraph 1: of the representatives referred to in paragraph 2, sub-section (b) (i); and (ii); of Members of Parliament referred to in paragraph 2, sub-section (b) (iv); of Associate Members referred to in paragraph 2, sub-section (a) (ii); and Honorary Members (with no voting rights) to a maximum of 20 who shall be nominated by the Chairman and co-opted on an annual basis by the Group Committee as persons of special qualifications for assisting the Group's work.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of the following members:-

(i) The Officers.

(ii) Not less than eight other representatives of outside bodies to be appointed by the Chairman.

(iii) Members of either House of Parliament appointed by the Chairman.

NOTE: Members of the Steering Committee appointed by the Chairman under sub-section (ii) above shall retire after five years' consecutive service on the Steering Committee.

Its purpose shall be to plan in advance the activities of the Group Committee.

5. MEETINGS:

(a) There shall be a minimum number of three meetings per annum of the Group Committee.

(b) There shall be an Annual Meeting each calendar year.

(c) At the meetings of the Group Committee at which resolutions affecting participating bodies can be adopted a quorum will be 20.

PARLIAMENTARY MARITIME GROUP

4th July 1984

LIST OF FOUNDER MEMBERS

(as amended)

Lord Buxton
Viscount Caldecote
Lord Campbell
~~Earl Fortescue~~
Lord Gisborough
Lord Greenway
Lord Gregson
Lord Hill-Norton
Earl of Inchcape
Lord Kennet
Earl of Kimberley
Lord Moran

Mr. Paddy Ashdown
Rt. Hon. Sir Humphrey Atkins
Mr. Gordon Bagier
Mr. Roy Beggs
Mr. W. Benyon
Sir Nicholas Bonsor
Sir Bernard Braine
Dr. Jeremy Bray
Sir Paul Bryan
Sir Anthony Buck
Rt. Hon. James Callaghan
Mr. C. Chope
Mr. Winston Churchill
Mr. Eric Cockeram
Mr. Michael Colvin
Mr. Patrick Cormack
Mr. Dick Douglas
Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann
Mr. Patrick Duffy
Sir Reginald Eyre
Sir John Farr
Mr. Frank Field
Mr. Clifford Forsythe
Mr. Ted Garrett
Rt. Hon. Dr. John Gilbert
Dr. Alan Glyn
Dr. Norman A. Godman
Mr. Barry Henderson
Mr. Andrew Hunter
Mr. Robert Rhodes James
Mr. Toby Jessel
Mrs. Jill Knight
Sir William Clark

E. & O.E.

Earl of Lauderdale
Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran
Lord Mayhew
Viscount Mersey
Earl of Selkirk
Lord Shackleton
Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal
Baroness Vickers
Lord Walston
Earl de la Warr
Baroness White

Mr. Peter Lloyd
Mr. E. Loyden
Mr. Gerald Malone
Mr. Michael Marshall
Mr. Kevin McNamara
Rt. Hon. Bruce Millan
Mr. Michael Morris
Mr. Richard Ottaway
Rt. Hon. David Owen
Sir David Price
Mr. S. Randall
Mr. Tim Rathbone
Mr. George Robertson
Mr. Stephen Ross
Mr. Andrew Rowe
Mrs. Angela Rumbold
Mr. Jonathan Sayeed
Rt. Hon. Peter Shore
Rt. Hon. John Silkin
Mr. Nigel Spearing
Mr. Keith Speed
Mr. John Spence
Mr. Teddy Taylor
Mr. Stefan Terlezki
Mr. Neil Thorne
Mr. James Tinn
Mr. Neville Trotter
Sir Gerard Vaughan
Mr. Peter Viggers
Major Sir Patrick Wall
Mr. J. Wallace
Mr. Nicholas Winterton
Mr. Martin O'Neill
Mr. Tom Sackville
Rt. Hon. John D. Taylor
Mr. M. Neubert

M.E.P.

Miss. Beata Brookes
Mrs. Winifred M. Ewing
Mrs. Sheila Faith
Mr. Glyn Ford
Mr. James Moorhouse
Ms. Joyce Quin
Mr. George Stevenson
Mr. Richard Simmons
Mr. William F. Newton Dunn



