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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 July 1986

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*Yes*

*Prime Minister  
Agree to this idea  
(which would not involve  
you + Kohl)?  
CDP  
3/7*

Dear Charles,

Possible Conservative/CDU Meeting on 17 September

The Foreign Secretary and Mr Tebbit have now discussed ways of strengthening the links between the Conservative Party and the CDU. They think it important to show the Germans that the British side is also keenly interested in making progress in this area.

Subject to the Prime Minister's views, the Foreign Secretary and Mr Tebbit suggest proposing to the Germans a Cabinet Minister level meeting over breakfast on 17 September. This would benefit from the focus on Anglo-German relations at the Anglo-German Summit in Bonn the previous day, the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl's joint visit to British Forces in Germany, and the presence in Bonn of a number of British Ministers.

The meeting could be attended on our side by the Foreign Secretary and Mr Tebbit, and possibly by other participants in the Summit (though Mr Younger would have already departed on the BFG visit). It would be up to the Germans to decide their participation. We would expect CDU Secretary-General Geissler, and perhaps another CDU personality, such as Bernhard Vogel (Minister-President of Kohl's homestate, the Rhineland Palatinate), as well as some of the CDU participants in the summit to be present. The meeting would be an opportunity to compare notes on electoral issues and strategies, and could be followed by a longer session between Herr Geissler and Mr Tebbit later that day. The visit to Bonn by a group of Special Advisers on 10-12 September should help to establish some points for a useful exchange.

If the Prime Minister is content, the proposal will be pursued through Party channels.

*Yours ever,  
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 July 1986

**POSSIBLE CONSERVATIVE/CDU MEETING ON 17 SEPTEMBER**

Thank you for your letter of 3 July proposing that, to strengthen Conservative Party/CDU links, there should be a Cabinet Minister level meeting with the Germans on the day after the Anglo-German Summit in September.

The Prime Minister is content that this proposal should be put to the Germans through party channels.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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IN CONFIDENCE

CC 14  
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PM/85/97

CDP  
25/11

PRIME MINISTER

Conference in London of CDU/CSU and Conservative  
Parliamentarians

1. As you may already be aware, a most successful conference was held in London on 18/19 November involving CDU/CSU and Conservative Parliamentarians. It has always been clear that there is a great deal in common between our approach and that of the CDU/CSU, and this was certainly amply demonstrated by this conference.

2. In preparation for your meeting with Chancellor Kohl and his colleagues next week, you may like to glance at the attached short report from my Political Adviser, John Houston.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
25 November 1985

IN CONFIDENCE



FROM: J HOUSTON

DATE: 20 November 1985

Secretary of State

cc: All Ministers  
Mr Fergusson  
PS/PUS  
Mr Derek Thomas  
Mr Braithwaite  
Mr Renwick  
Mr Samuel  
ECD(I)  
ECD(E)  
WED  
Planning Staff  
*Richard Ryder.*

CDU/CSU AND CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE  
IN LONDON: 18-19 NOVEMBER 1985

1. You have seen all the preliminary papers about this second (and now hopefully annual) core meeting of CDU/CSU and Conservative contacts. You may be interested in a brief commentary on its outcome.

2. The Conference sessions and social occasions were well attended almost throughout (the exception being during the statement on Ireland in the Commons). Delegations on the British and German sides were well matched and of good quality.

3. Foreign Office Ministers played a major part, with an opening contribution from Mr Rifkind, the hosting of a lunch by Lady Young, and attendance at most sessions, together with opening talk at Final Session by Mr Eggar. Other Ministers participating were John Moore, David Hunt, Chris Patten, Barney Hayhoe, and Peter Bottomley. Volker Ruhe as usual dominated the German side.

4. The following points of interest emerged from the discussions:

- optimism among the Germans that the CDU/CSU is likely to win the 1987 election;
- a remarkable similarity in many of our political problems and concerns (the need to see a downward trend in unemployment, demographic changes leaving significant problems in utilisation and maintenance of existing investment (schools, housing, etc), the concern to increase individual control over one's life, etc);

/- no doubts



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- no doubts expressed about the importance of the UK joining the ERM;
- an interesting shift towards more pragmatic language and evolutionary concepts in relation to the European Union (the words "practical achievements" were used by several German speakers);
- a comment by Herr Bohl (evidently shared by the others) that they had found in their discussions a much closer identity of views with the Conservatives than was the case with most other parties in the EPP.

4. The most lively and informative session of all was that on unemployment, which was prolonged because of its success. The debate was as much within both delegations as between them and the issues of concern to all participants were so similar that everyone was able to feel they had gained significant insights into each other's fundamental politics, and possibly some ideas with potential for application in their country. The success of this session owed much to concise and positive contributions from Herr Westphal, a well-informed but fairly personal contribution from David Hunt which was taken up in a good-naturedly combative spirit by Richard Ryder, and stimulating contributions from Robert Jackson and Alistair Burt. The discussions showed common concern about the black economy, the implications of taxes for enterprise (but mainly corporation tax for the Germans), the need to strengthen the linkage between education and industry, questions of youth training/lack of incentives for young to take jobs, etc.

5. No specific conclusions were drawn on any of the subjects discussed - but the Conference was not structured in that way, and that does not necessarily detract from its value as a piece of "unconventional diplomacy" which establishes personal contacts, provides for mutual education, and reinforces the already fairly strong links between the parties. However it was proposed and agreed that at the next Conference in Bonn preparation would be more structured, and one parliamentarian on each side would arrange for the presentation of papers on one or two specific subjects (several possibilities were suggested including our respective Social Security/Training/Unemployment policies; procedures for scrutinising European legislation; and Arms Control). Colin Moynihan will, I understand, represent the British side in the preparations.

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6. The German visitors were very appreciative of their meeting with you which, though short, they felt had been put to maximum use and had involved frank and concise exchanges. Mr Tebbit's hosting of a dinner and helpful after dinner speech were also appreciated.

7. In summary, a very worthwhile occasion which all involved were convinced provided a valuable underpinning of the increasingly good relationship at various levels between our countries, and also provided mutual reinforcement and encouragement in retaining power.

8. I am sending this note to Mr Eggar, who may have some corrections or additions to make.

/ 9. I attach for reference the programme and list of participants.

J HOUSTON  
Special Adviser

*Jose*

SECOND MEETING OF CONSERVATIVE AND CDU/CSU MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT  
Jointly organized with the Conservative Party International Office

London (Royal Horseguards Hotel, Dragon Main Suite)

18-19 November 1985

PROGRAMME

Monday, 18 November 1985

9.00 - 10.30 am

Arrival of German members of parliament at Heathrow airport; transfer to the Royal Horseguards Hotel, Whitehall Court, London SW1

11.00 am

Opening of the meeting by Jim Spicer MP Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party; Chairman of the Conservative Party International Office

11.10 - 12.30 pm

FIRST SESSION

Conservatives and Christian Democrats at half term

- an analysis of governmental policies
- prospects for the next general elections

British speaker: Malcolm Rifkind MP  
Minister of State,  
Foreign & Commonwealth  
Office

German Speaker: Volker Rühle MdB  
Deputy Leader CDU/CSU  
Parliamentary Party

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1.00 pm

Lunch at the House of Commons  
Hosted by the Rt Hon The Baroness Young,  
Minister of State, Foreign & Common-  
wealth Office

3.00 pm

SECOND SESSION

Programmes to reduce state intervention  
in the economy:

- Privatization
- Deregulation

German speaker: Birgit Breuel MdL  
Minister of Economic  
Affairs, State of  
Lower Saxony

British speaker: John Moore MP  
Financial Secretary,  
HM Treasury

5.30 pm

Meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Foreign Secretary

7.30 for 8.00 pm

Reception and dinner  
hosted by the Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP,  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster;  
Chairman of the Conservative Party

Tuesday, 19 November 1985

9.30 am

THIRD SESSION

Creating jobs in the Eighties

- policies and approaches in both  
countries

German speaker: Dr. Jürgen Westphal MdL  
Minister for Economic  
Affairs, State of  
Schleswig-Holstein



British Speaker: David Hunt MBE MP  
Parliamentary Under-  
Secretary of State,  
Department of Energy

11.00 am

FOURTH SESSION

- Soviet - American relations and their impact on Europe
- The European Community - a joint approach for revitalization

German speaker: Volker Rühle MdB  
Deputy Leader CDU/CSU  
Parliamentary Party

British speakers: Tim Eggar MP  
Parliamentary Under-  
Secretary of State  
Foreign & Commonwealth  
Office

1.00 pm

Lunch at the German embassy  
hosted by H.E. Baron Rüdiger von  
Wechmar

Afternoon

DEPARTURE for Heathrow of German  
parliamentarians

Coordinators:

Scott Hamilton  
International Office  
Conservative Central Office, London

Ludger Eling  
London Office  
Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation

MEETING OF BRITISH AND GERMAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

London, 18-19 November 1985

GERMAN PARTICIPANTS:

Friedrich BOHL MdB	Parl. Geschäftsführer der CDU/CSU-Bundestagsfraktion (Chief Whip)
Birgit BREUEL	Minister für Wirtschaft und Verkehr, Niedersachsen (Minister for Economic Affairs, State of Lower-Saxony)
Elmar BROK MdEP	
Hansjürgen DOSS MdB	Mitglied des Ausschusses für Wirtschaft (Member Select Cttee on Economic Affairs)
Michaela GEIGER MdB	Mitglied des Finanzausschusses (Member Select Cttee on Finance)
Dr. Wolfgang von GELDERN MdB	Parlamentarischer Staatssekretär beim Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten (Minister of State for Food, Agriculture and Forestry)
Dr. Renate HELLWIG MdB	Mitglied des Finanzausschusses (Member Select Cttee on Finance)

Dr. Friedrich-Adolf JAHN MdB	Parl. Staatssekretär beim Bundesministerium für Raumordnung, Bauwesen und Städtebau  (Minister of State, Ministry for Regional Planning, Housing & Town development)
Peter KITTELMANN MdB	Mitglied des Ausschusses für Wirtschaft  (Member Select Cttee on Economic Affairs)
Volker RÜHE MdB	Stellv. Vorsitzender der CDU/CSU-Bundestagsfraktion  (Deputy Leader CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party)
Hans-Eberhard SCHLEYER	Staatssekretär bei der Staatskanzlei, Rheinland-Pfalz  (Minister of State, Cabinets Office, State of Rhineland-Palatinate)
Gunnar ULDALL MdB	Mitglied des Finanzausschusses  (Member Select Cttee on Finance)
Dr. Roland WEGENER	Leiter des Büros für Auswärtige Beziehungen, CDU-Bundesgeschäftsstelle, Bonn  (Director International Office, CDU Central Office, Bonn)
Dr. Jürgen WESTPHAL	Minister für Wirtschaft und Verkehr, Schleswig-Holstein  (Minister for Economic Affairs, State of Schleswig-Holstein, Chairman CDU National Cttee on Economic Policy)

# 2ND CONSERVATIVE/CDU PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING

18th-19th November 1985

## BRITISH PARTICIPANTS

[At 12th November 1985]

**RT HON MICHAEL ALISON MP** (*Selby*)

Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister

**MR DAVID ATKINSON MP** (*Bournemouth East*)

Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Minister for Trade

**MR PETER BOTTOMLEY MP** (*Eltham*)

Under-Secretary of State  
for Employment

**MR KENNETH CARLISLE MP** (*Lincoln*)

Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Home Secretary

**MRS LYNDA CHALKER MP** (*Wallasey*)

Minister of State  
Department of Transport

**MR JAMES COUCHMAN MP** (*Gillingham*)

**MR TIM EGGAR MP** (*Enfield North*)

Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**MR SCOTT HAMILTON**

Head, Conservative Party International Office  
Executive Secretary, International Democrat Union

**RT HON BARNEY HAYHOE MP** (*Brentford & Isleworth*)

Minister for Health  
Department of Health and Social Security

**MR JOHN HOUSTON**

Special Advisor to the Secretary of State  
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

**MR DAVID HUNT MBE MP** (*Wirral West*)

Under-Secretary of State  
Department of Energy

**MR ROBERT JACKSON MP** (*Wantage*)

**MR HAL MILLER MP** (*Bromsgrove*)

Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party

**MR JOHN MOORE MP** (*Croydon Central*)

Financial Secretary to the Treasury

**HON COLIN MOYNIHAN MP** (*Lewisham East*)

Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Paymaster-General (Employment)

**MR RICHARD PAGE MP** (*Hertfordshire South-West*)

Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Lord Privy Seal

**MR CHRISTOPHER PATTEN MP** (*Bath*)

Minister of State  
Department of Education and Science

**MR WILLIAM POWELL MP** (*Corby*)  
Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Minister for Overseas Development

**MR MALCOLM RIFKIND MP** (*Pentlands*)  
Minister of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**MRS MARION ROE MP** (*Broxbourne*)  
Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Under-Secretary of State for Transport

**MRS ANGELA RUMBOLD CBE MP** (*Mitcham & Morden*)  
Parliamentary Private Secretary  
Under-Secretary of State for the Environment

**MR RICHARD RYDER OBE MP** (*Norfolk Mid*)  
Parliamentary Private Secretary  
to the Foreign Secretary

**MR JIM SPICER MP** (*Dorset West*)  
Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party  
Chairman of the Conservative Party International Office

**RT HON NORMAN TEBBIT MP** (*Chingford*)  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Chairman of the Conservative Party

**RT HON BARONESS YOUNG**  
Minister of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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