



T.P.M.
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1 May 1985

Dear Charles,

BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

..... Following our conversation earlier today,
I attach a note on the international drugs
problem for the Prime Minister's use if she
wishes to raise this during the course of the
Summit.

I am copying this letter and the enclosure
to Len Appleyard (FCO) and Richard Hatfield
(Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

Charles Powell, Esq.

Line to Take

The drugs problem is growing in nearly every Western and Third World country. Record amounts of heroin and cocaine are being manufactured and seized throughout the world. Most countries are reporting increasing numbers of addicts. The profits generated by illicit drug trafficking are enormous (heroin and cocaine have a street value 10-20 times that of gold). The risk of corruption, particularly in the less developed countries, is considerable. There is a major risk to the stability of societies and governments, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. The problem is likely to continue to get worse before it begins to improve.

Clearly international co-operation is vital. We need to tackle both the supply of and demand for drugs. We also need to take account of the political realities in the drug producer and transit countries. The United Nations has a key role but its drugs bodies in Vienna are not always as well co-ordinated as they might be. To our disappointment, a good deal of energy at February's session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs was expended in unproductive discussion about whether a new international convention is needed or whether the existing conventions should be strengthened. We welcome the initiative of the Latin American countries in raising the issue, and hope that all countries will respond positively to the UN's current invitation to submit proposals for elements to be included in the new international instrument on drug trafficking. In particular, we believe it essential to provide for effective law enforcement and deterrent measures to combat drug trafficking. There is certainly scope for developing draconian proposals to confiscate the proceeds of drug traffickers: the UK has played an active part in international

discussions, and is urgently preparing legislation - a key element is the need to provide for arrangements to trace and seize assets held in other countries. Countries also need to provide for the imposition of the most severe penalties upon convicted drug traffickers.

We would also support the work of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control in developing programmes to eliminate poppy and coca-bush cultivation. Not all those countries represented at the Summit have been particularly generous in contributing to the Fund. The UK had made a specific contribution in respect of Pakistan and is now considering a contribution for Latin America. While money is important, help in training police and Customs services in other countries or in providing technical know-how can be just as effective. Co-operation among police and Customs services on an international level is also vital, bilaterally as well as through such bodies as Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council.

We also need to examine whether there are more effective ways of preventing people, especially the young, from experimenting with drugs and treating those who become addicted. Much can be learned from the experience of other countries, and we are using our chairmanship of the Council of Europe Pampidou Group to develop co-operation in this area.

[At this stage we do not propose to put forward any specific proposals for new forms of international co-operation. But if colleagues would find it helpful we could have a more extensive discussion at the next Economic Summit.]