



Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SWIA 2AH

26 October 1990

Dear charles,

Rome: Special European Council: Remarks on 23 October by M. Delors

The Daily Telegraph on 24 October reported
M. Delors as saying that the Commission proposals
for the IGC on political union (ie the Commission
Opinion) were intended to pave the way for a Federation
of Europe with the Commission as the Executive
Government and the Council of Ministers as the
Senate.

The Commission Opinion itself (which is in the brief you have for the Special European Council) does not contain what M. Delors is reported by the Daily Telegraph as having suggested. It does not propose any radical change in the present institutional plans of the Community - although it does contain a lot of other horrors.

Jos- ever

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DELORS COMMENTS

British right of veto faces axe in Delors plan

By Boris Johnson, EC Correspondent, Strasbourg

BRITAIN will lose its right to veto Common Market laws on tax, employment and the environment from next year under proposals by M Jacques Delors, EC Commission president. The plans, aimed at a European federation, are likely to be resisted by Mrs Thatcher.

In advance of December's treaty-changing conference on political union. Brussels yesterday unveiled sweeping plans for the acquisition of powers extending into virtually every area of policy.

M Delors said the plans were intended to pave the way for a Federation of Europe, a superstate with the Brussels Commission as the executive government and the Council of Ministers as a senate

The demands of the 17 commissioners, who are appointed by national governments, include plans to transform the EC into a military pact. The plans overlook Irish neutrality and British insistance that Nato remains Europe's prime defence alliance.

Brussels would like to see the Treaty of Rome re-written next December so that "in the event of an armed attack against one of the parties, the others are obliged to provide aid and assistance

That would go against the principle that the EC is an exclusively economic and social organisation.

The commissioners also request that the Community should have a common foreign policy, with Britain again unable to veto big decisions except when they directly concerned security.

Once the 12 leaders had decided on the broad areas requiring concerted EC action. foreign ministers would take decisions in which a majority of only eight countries would be enough to carry the day.

When rumours of the plan were put to Mr Hurd, Foreign Secretary, on Monday, he said Britain could not contemplate the big concessions envisaged.

Though Britain, like every other EC country, has a unilateral veto of any changes to the Treaty of Rome, the pressure from most other countries will be strong when governments assemble next year. M Delors said: "If our friends the British want to revive the nation-state instead of the Community, they should say so.

The plans bear the stamp of M Delors, who has given short shrift to the desires of the Strasbourg European Parliament to increase its own pow-

ers at the expense of Brussels. The MEPs would benefit only indirectly as the Commission extended its law-making operations in the taboo areas of indirect taxation, workers rights, the environment and even energy and culture. The Parliament would not gain the right to initiate legislation, which belongs solely to the Commission.

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