



Cassidy/  
EDG (main).

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

4th January, 1990

Dear Mr Cassidy,

Charles Powell has told me of his conversation with you just before Christmas and I thought it would be helpful if I responded to some of the points you raised.

Like you, I am keen to improve the liaison between the Government and the EDG and have discussed at some length with Christopher Prout and Tom Spencer how best this can be achieved. The Prime Minister has also made it clear to Ministers that she very much hopes they will keep in close contact with members of the Group and in particular has asked that Special Advisers should keep in regular touch with Group spokesmen and act as a point of contact within the Departments. I hope that this is already bearing fruit, but if there is still a problem, I know that she would be prepared to draw this to the attention of Ministers once again.

As far as Number 10 is concerned, I speak regularly to Christopher Prout, and would be very happy to act as a liaison point for Group members. I am not sure that there is great value in a member of the Policy Unit attending Group meetings - certainly they do not attend meetings of Westminster MPs. However, I am sure that Unit members would be delighted to talk to members of the Group on any particular issues as they arise.

As you know, the Prime Minister has invited the members of the Group to a meeting with her later this month and I hope that there will be other opportunities for Conservative MEPs to come to Number 10 for more informal occasions.

If you would like to discuss these, or any other matters further, I would be delighted to see you if you would like to pop in when you are next in London.

*Yours sincerely,*

*John Whittingdale*

JOHN WHITTINGDALE  
Political Secretary

Bryan Cassidy Esq MEP