

EDG



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2nd February, 1990

Jean Amédée

Thank you for your letter of 26th January.

I was interested to learn of your recent meeting with Mr Forlani and am glad that the EDG will now be holding meetings with the Italian Christian Democrats to discuss matters of common interest. As the non-socialists are now in a minority in the Parliament, I am sure you are right that we should work even more closely with the other centre-right parties.

It was also good of you to send me the report on the activities of the European People's Party in Eastern Europe. As you know, Kenneth Baker is setting up an exercise to identify emerging parties of like mind to ourselves and so I hope you will also keep him in touch with your progress.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Norfolk

Amédée Turner Esq QC MEP

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB
Det konservative folkeparti, DK



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

R30/1

PPS Political
Office

26 January 1990

97-113, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels
Tel. (02) 234 21 11
Fax. 231 11 83

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Following my memorandum to you on European Democratic Group relations with the European People's Party, I would like to report an important development since it was written.

After six months of feelers put out on our behalf by Commissioner Pandolfi, who has been advising us confidentially on improving our relations with the Italian Christian Democrats, we were informed that Mr Forlani (Secretary General, ie, equivalent to President of the Italian Christian Democrats) felt that the time was now right for serious discussions. These were started with a long meeting with him in Rome on 23 January 1990 when he agreed to set up joint meetings between the Italian Christian Democrats and the European Democratic Group to discuss a range of matters of common interest in Europe (East Europe, Inter Governmental Conference, institutions, CSCE, the Baker proposals for an Atlantic-EC Treaty). In addition it is agreed that Sir Christopher Prout QC MEP and I will have further meetings with Mr Forlani in February.

I also enclose the further notes I promised you on the identification and support of anti Socialist opposition parties in East Europe.

Yours sincerely

Amédée Turner QC MEP
Chief Whip

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Prime Minister

Date: 26 January 1990

From: Amédée Turner, Chief Whip EDG

EPP Activities in Eastern Europe

1. The European People's Party (EPP) and the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) and national CD parties are supporting three opposition parties in each of East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and at present, one in Romania. Where the original local CD party was in the Government they recommend disengagement, but recognise this may not happen till after the respective elections. These parties are all those which might reasonably be supported - they exclude former Communist parties, Socialists and movements such as ecologists.
2. These opposition parties are asked to fuse or ally with their national associates after the election so that only one organisation represents them in the EPP/EUCD. If this occurs they are apparently assured of membership of the EPP/EUCD.
3. The EPP/CDs realise that any splitting of the anti-Socialist effort would be bad and they are therefore interested in British Conservative Party activities and realise the importance of concertation. Some of the East European parties want to use the name "Conservative" in some limited cases to obtain a united front against the Socialists. The CDs have said that they would not object to this.
4. The practical help is being given by the different national parties to the different East European countries, coordinated by the EPP International to prevent overlaps. West German CDU supporting Poland and East Germany; Austria and the CSU supporting Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Holland supporting Hungary. The help takes the form of courses in election campaigning etc for party workers, some hundreds of thousands of posters (designed by the Hungarian parties) will be printed in Munich for Hungary, old office machinery donated by industry (transport paid by EPP international). Visiting Parliamentarians are paid by their national parties to tour East Europe. English language is very acceptable among the young, German amongst the older; but translation is always available from among the audience.

5. Only one contact has been made so far in Romania and none in Bulgaria.
6. Socialist support is at least at an equal level to that of the CDs. In addition the Socialist Group in the European Parliament has appointed a deputy secretary general (Blackman) and five part-time assistants.
7. Parties supported.

East Germany: CD (in Government); Democratic Awakening (largest); German Social Union (new).

Czechoslovakia: Czech People's Party (of CD tendency) (in Government); CDs (broke away from the People's Party 20 years ago); a Slovak Christian Social Union Party.

Poland: Labour Party ("CDs"); National Christian Party (new); Peasants Solidarity (soon to be supported).

Hungary: Christian Democratic Peoples Party (small); Democratic Forum (largest); Small Farmers.