

~~ED~~ Mr Powell
for information.

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POL OFFICE

CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
32 SMITH SQUARE SW1
MEMORANDUM

FROMEdward Llewellyn... TOChairman.....

DATE7th November 1990.....

FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN EVENTS

1. Next week, the EDG will be in London from Monday to Thursday for their Group meeting, which will take place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

This will mean that the MEPs will effectively be available to the Press for most of next week - so there are potential difficulties.

- On Monday, Sir Geoffrey Pattie is hosting a buffet lunch for them at CCO.
- They will also be publishing proposals for the IGC on political union. This includes proposals for:
 - the European Parliament to produce a plan for European Union;
 - extension of majority voting;
 - Council meetings to be held in public
 - incorporation of the WEU into the security arm of European Political Cooperation.

- The text also explicitly states that progress in the Community cannot indefinitely be blocked by a 'small minority.'
 - On Wednesday, the Group will be holding a conference on European Defence and Security, which will be addressed by the Foreign Secretary and Alan Clark, as well as the Hungarian Foreign Secretary. Given the Group's views on a defence role for the EC, this could also cause problems.
 - On Thursday the EDG holds its British Section meeting in the House at 9 am, (you speak to the European Affairs Backbench Committee on Wednesday, which MEPs can attend).
2. The 'Assises' - the meeting of MPs and MEPs from across the Community - will take place in Rome from 27th - 30th November. The meeting will discuss the implications of political union and EMU for national parliaments and the EP.
- The Westminster delegation comprises:

Commons: Nicholas Bonsor
John Butterfill
Bill Cash
Quentin Davies
Hugh Dykes
Geoffrey Finsberg
Robert Hicks
David Howell (Leader)
Michael Lord
Jim Spicer
Bowen Wells

Lords: Aldington
Butterworth
Selsdon

MEPs Derek Prag (Leader)
Sir Chirstopher Prout
Marie Jepsen (Danish MEP)
Ben Patterson
Amedee Turner
Lord O'Hagan
Bill Newton Dunn (Substitute)

- The Labour delegation has still to be announced, but will almost certainly be led by George Robertson.

- The potential for public displays of division, both between the MEPs and MPs, and between the MPs themselves, is great indeed. There will be a 'pre-briefing' this Tuesday at the Chief Whips office for the entire Conservative delegation which I hope will narrow the scope for problems.

EL/sd

cc Andrew Lansley
Brendan Bruce
Christine Wall
Maurice Fraser (FCO)
David Lidington (FCO)
John Whittingdale (No 10)