



FILE  
de

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 March 1984

Economic and Social Committee : Letter from  
M. Ceyrac to the Prime Minister

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Thank you for your letter of 16 March.  
As I told you on the telephone, the telegram  
which you enclosed may be despatched but I  
should be grateful if you would first delete  
the second sentence of the proposed reply from  
the Prime Minister to M. Ceyrac.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	UNCLASSIFIED	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO MARCH 84
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS
TEL NO	8	INFO EC POSTS
	9	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE: LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
	10	FROM M. CEYRAC
	11	1. Your mufax to Wall of 14 March, setting out text of
	12	letter from Ceyrac to the Prime Minister, refers.
	13	2. The Prime Minister has agreed that you should convey the
	14	following message to Ceyrac in reply:
	15	BEGINS:
	16	I have been asked by the Prime Minister to thank you for
	17	your letter to her of 14 March. The Prime Minister has taken
	18	careful note of what you say. She wishes to convey her thanks
	19	for the message of support from the Community's social and
	20	economic interests for tackling the urgent decisions which lie
	21	ahead at the Council. She fully shares your desire to get
///	22	agreement urgently on solutions to the deep-seated structural
//	23	problems of the Community, so that the Community can turn its
/	24	energies to promoting a better future for all of its members.
	25	That objective will be pursued vigorously by the UK at the

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword Council
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats		Page
	UNCLASSIFIED	IMMEDIATE	2

<<<< 1 <<<<  
 2 Council.  
 3 ends  
 4 3. The message should if at all possible be conveyed to  
 5 M. Ceyrac before the start of the Council.  
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 7 HOWE  
 8 NNNN  
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BW.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 March, 1984

*John Taylor*

Economic and Social Committee: Letter from M. Ceyrac to  
the Prime Minister

/ I enclose the text of a letter which the President of the Economic and Social Committee, M. Ceyrac, has asked Sir Michael Butler to convey to the Prime Minister.

M. Ceyrac writes to emphasise the importance of the Community to the future of Europe's workers, businessmen and consumers; the need to take the urgent decisions facing the Community without delay and to avoid its collapse; and the support which 'those in positions of political responsibility' can rely on from the Community's social and economic interests, for the work ahead at the Council, where the public expects the necessary bold decisions to be taken.

/ The terms of the letter suggest that it may have been sent to other EC Heads of Government as well. In the circumstances, we recommend that Sir Michael Butler conveys a brief message on behalf of the Prime Minister in reply, as set out in the enclosed draft telegram.

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content with this. It would be preferable for the message to reach M. Ceyrac before the Council.

*Handwritten signature*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

11.56 G  
24312 ukecbr b  
25983 ceseur b

Hofc / PRIVATE OFFICE

brussels 14/3/1984  
telex nr 1294

his excellency  
sir michael butler, kcmg,  
ambassador  
permanent representative of the  
united kingdom to the european communities

19/18  
NMT

i should like you to forward the following letter to the  
prime minister.

the rt. hon. margaret thatcher, m.p.

HL Martin  
for action please  
I should be instructed  
to send a

dear prime minister,

after the setback of the athens summit, the economic and  
social committee appealed to all socio-professional organiza-  
tions in the member states to rally in defence of the construc-  
tion of europe.

the unprecedented response to this appeal has highlighted  
the firm commitment of what are called the community's "life  
forcee" to this grand design. the community's influence on the  
entire socio-economic fabric is so deep-rooted that it has now  
become indispensible.

after the athens summit the esc declared that the economic  
and social interest groups were not prepared to give up on the  
community. today, it can safely say right out that they are  
unable to do so without vehaking the very foundations on which  
their plans, development and future have ben built for many  
years.

← No more text on original

consequently, on the eve of a particularly crucial

meeting, the esc - which has consistently focussed its attention on practical issues affecting the spheres for which it is specifically responsible - is now deliberately tackling a really fundamental issue.

the community has reached a stage in its development where even the most routine aspects of its existence depend on highly political decisions, failure to take these decisions could mean the collapse of the entire community edifice constructed over the past 25 years.

political decisions, failure to take these decisions could mean the collapse of the entire community edifice constructed over the past 25 years.

in addressing itself to the heads of state or government, the esc's intention is to state its views on (a) the key issues at stake in industry, agriculture, trade, the crafts and the professions, and (b) the urgency of the decisions that must be taken.

the future of millions of workers, businesses and consumers throughout the eec is at stake.

workers look to job security and their living standards, businesses are concerned about their capacity to compete, in short their survival in the teeth of international competition, the consumer's main anxiety is to protect purchasing power, all of them care deeply about their own and their children's freedom.

the decisions required are becoming increasingly urgent as the recession cuts deeper day by day, calling

ing for changes (sometimes radical changes) in structures and strategies. deadlines must be set, as in the case of enlargement of the eec, which cannot and should not be put off any longer.

in the face of this situation, the esc feels able to assure those in positions of political

responsibility that they can count on the full backing of europe's organised interest groups in taking the bold decisions that the general public expects from them and in their efforts to rise above national or corporate conflicts of interest.

o

yours sincerely,

francis de launay  
of the economic and social committee

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