



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

26 September 1984

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27/9.

Dear Charles,

Action Committee for Europe

You will want to know that Mr Edward Heath chaired a meeting on 13 September at Leeds Castle of a number of European personalities who are considering setting up a Committee to promote European integration, along the lines of the former Monnet Committee. Those present included Delors, Schmidt, Colombo, Tindemans, den Uyl, Deniau, Carstens and Maurice Faure. The meeting has received no publicity. We have only recently had a substantial account of it (from the Committee's Secretary-designate, Simon May, now of the Tugendhat Cabinet).

This was the second meeting of the group. (The first was in Brussels in mid-March.) I understand the intention is that at their next meeting (in Paris in December) they will discuss and possibly approve a draft policy statement covering various aspects of European integration. Once the document is agreed, the idea is to enlarge the membership of this group to some 80 people using the policy statement as the basis on which people are asked to join. Thereafter there would be an announcement that the new "Action Committee for Europe" (or some similar title) has been formed, together with the publication of the paper and the list of membership. The Action Committee will seek to promote its aims via speeches, Parliamentary resolutions and individual approaches to Members of European Community Governments.

One important difference from the Monnet Committee is that members would be members in their own right, not mandated representatives of political parties. I understand however that those concerned are determined that membership should not look like a collection of old-style Europeans but should include people who have the approval of and influence with Governments. I suppose therefore that if their plans work out we may expect an approach from representatives of the group to inform British Ministers of what is planned. We may also hear of approaches to other leading people in this country.

I say "if their plans work out" advisedly. Attempts have been going on for some time to revive the Monnet Committee and the group does not seem to be in any great hurry. This is

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arguably no bad thing. There are obvious dangers of conflict, or at least confusion, with the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Affairs (or Spaak Committee) which will be meeting for the first time on 28 September. Some representatives on that Committee will wish to discuss just the issues which seem likely to be debated in the Action Committee.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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26 SEP 1994





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cc: DC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 September, 1984

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Thank you for your letter of 26 September about the Action Committee for Europe.

The Prime Minister was grateful to be informed of this.

(C.D. Powell)

C. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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