

CPG ①



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

(a), (b) and (d) are unexceptionable. But

29 October 1984

(c) risks bureaucratizing the meetings: once you first open the door to officials, they will come flooding in.

Agree to oppose (c)?
No - see below
CDP
29/A

Dear Charles,

European Council

The Foreign Secretary has it in mind, subject to the Prime Minister's agreement, to make certain points about the role and organisation of the European Council during the informal meeting of EC Foreign Ministers in Ireland next weekend.

The points he would like to make are:

- (a) the need for the European Council to take a more strategic role and to establish clear priorities for EC policy;
- (b) the need for conclusions on substantive matters to be issued only after prior agreement in the Council or between the delegations most involved;
- (c) the desirability of having a record-taker with each delegation so that Foreign Ministers can be free to devote themselves to the discussion;
- (d) the proposal that M. Delors should be invited to attend the Dublin European Council, in order to get a sense of the Council's priorities before he takes over as President of the Commission in January.

F.C.S. feels very strongly about this - he has to take the notes! But I doubt if the rest will agree. not trying for one meeting.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



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From the Private Secretary

30 October 1984

European Council

Thank you for your letter of 29 October mentioning the various points about the role and organisation of the European Council which the Foreign Secretary intends to make during the informal meeting of EC Foreign Ministers next weekend. The Prime Minister agrees with points A, B and D. As regards point C, she sees some risk of bureaucratising European Council meetings if notetakers are once allowed in. But she knows that the Foreign Secretary feels very strongly about this and wonders whether the best thing might not be to propose that it be tried for one Council meeting then reviewed. She thinks, however, that other Governments may have reservations even about this.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.