



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th January 1984.

Dear Edward,

I am visiting the Soviet Union next week, and I write to let you know that I propose to sound out the Russians on the possibility of starting up a European contribution to the East / West dialogue at Parliamentary level.

They may well turn down the idea, but I hope you will agree that an exchange of views on detente, arms control and disarmament between, say, thirty parliamentarians from each side might be interesting and helpful at this time. The Western side might be drawn from the seven W.E.U. countries, and the Easterners from the six satellites, together with the European region of the Soviet Union.

The All-Party Council for Arms Control, of which Peter Blaker, Brynmor John and Denzil Davies are members, have let me know that they would be willing to take on the administration.

Obviously if the proposal is to bear fruit it must have the goodwill of all the British Parties, and not be particularly associated with any one of them.

Until we know the Russians' reaction there is not much to be done, but I thought I should let you know what is in my mind. I am writing in similar terms to Neil Kinnock.

The Rt. Hon Edward du Cann, M.P.,
House of Commons.

Edward
du Cann