



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister.

London SW1A 2AH

To be aware.

Content with line at 6 February 1984

Gen John,

A.F.C. 6.

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European Parliament's Treaty on European Union

I wrote to you on 12 September 1983 to say that the European Parliament was about to adopt a Resolution containing the 'principles and guidelines' for a Treaty on European Union. The Parliament duly adopted the Resolution on 14 September 1983, and instructed its Institutional Affairs Committee to turn the 'principles and guidelines' into a draft Treaty. The Committee agreed a draft of a Treaty on 14 December and this is to be debated and voted on by the Parliament as a whole on 14/15 February. The draft Treaty is unchanged in substance from the proposals adopted by the Parliament in September last year and which were summarised in my earlier letter. It is almost certain to be adopted by the Parliament by a large majority. The EDG have decided to have a free vote on this question. Most of its members are likely to abstain, but some will vote in favour.

There is, of course, no obligation on Member Governments to take account of the Parliament's draft Treaty, but critics of the Community in this country are bound to make much of it and to allege that it represents a lurch towards federalism, supra-nationalism etc. The Prime Minister will therefore wish to be aware of this development, particularly as the draft Resolution containing the text of the Treaty calls on the Parliament's President to visit Member States' capitals 'as soon as possible' to deliver the draft Treaty to Member governments and urge its adoption. We may therefore expect to hear from Mr Dankert in due course.

If we are asked about the Treaty, we propose to take the following line:

'The European Parliament is entitled to express its views on how to promote European unification and to present these to Member States.'

The existing Treaties are clearly designed to be steadily developed. We are not convinced of the case for a new Treaty on European Unity. But the option will no doubt be raised in the context of the review of the Solemn Declaration on European Union which is due to take place within five years of its signature i.e. before 19 June 1988. (The Solemn Declaration was signed at the Stuttgart European Council on 19 June 1983.)'

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This is deliberately low key; we have nothing to gain from taking a line which would antagonise the Parliament at a time when we want their cooperation over our refunds. Naturally if asked we shall make it clear that there was no obligation on us to take account of Parliament's draft.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Sir Robert Armstrong's office).

You see
R B Bone

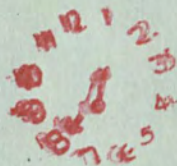
(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Euro. Pol. : Political Co-op. as discussed
at Venlo 5/81

26 FEB 1984



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 February, 1984

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

Thank you for your letter of 6 February. The Prime Minister has noted its contents, including the line which you propose should be taken publicly on the draft Treaty on European Union prepared by the European Parliament.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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