

SUBJECT
cc Master.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

fa 564
cc Dr PC Cadock

From the Private Secretary

16 January 1985

Dear Colin.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 16 JANUARY

The Prime Minister received Senor Oreja this afternoon. He was accompanied by a note-taker. The United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe was also present.

Senor Oreja thanked the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom's support for his election and for the excellent organisation of his visit to Britain. He thought that a turning point had been reached in the Council of Europe's affairs. He had to produce a programme for the Council's activities for the next five years. He would welcome ideas from Britain. The Council had to be aware of its responsibility to the taxpayer. There was scope for it to be more selective and concentrated in its activities. The Prime Minister endorsed this. It was important for the Council not to be diffuse. We would let Senor Oreja have suggestions.

Senor Oreja said that he attached particular importance to the Council's activities on terrorism. He felt strongly about this: four of his eleven closest political associates had been killed by Basque terrorists. Justice Ministers had

CONFIDENTIAL

called for proposals for improved cooperation against terrorism. He felt that the work was proceeding too slowly. Officials should be asked to report quickly. He also wished to give priority to the Council's work on drugs. The Prime Minister agreed that these two subjects should have priority. She recalled that the Council had issued a good resolution on terrorism last May. In her mind terrorism and subversion were closely linked.

The Prime Minister said that the Council of Europe had a special role. There was a risk that the European Community would become an exclusive club. The Council brought together a wider circle of countries and maintained contact and dialogue between them. Senor Oreja agreed that the Council should be a forum for political discussion and dialogue. There would be a special Ministerial meeting on 29 January, at Herr Genscher's initiative to discuss East/West relations, the Middle East and Latin America. The Prime Minister welcomed this and observed that a revived American initiative on the Middle East was needed.

Senor Oreja mentioned that the Council faced problems with Malta and Turkey. The Prime Minister said that she had been much concerned to hear of the difficulties with Turkey. Turkey was very important strategically and the rest of Europe should help her overcome her difficulties. Senor Oreja observed that a compromise proposal had been floated to deal with the Turkish Presidency of the Council. He hoped that the United Kingdom would encourage Turkey to accept it.

Senor Oreja referred to the Cyprus problem. The Prime Minister gave a summary account of her recent meeting with President Kyprianou. She thought that there were prospects for making progress, though several high-level meetings might well be required.

The Prime Minister said that she was annoyed at the Council's efforts to interfere in the Northern Ireland problem. The Council's role was to deal with problems of common concern, not to interfere in other people's business. She would say this if she were to address the Council.

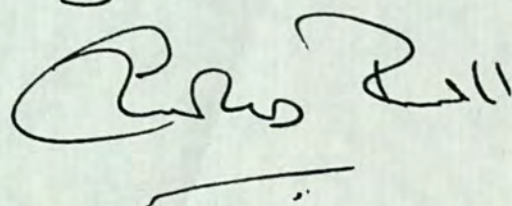
The Prime Minister said that the Council should resist the temptation to extend the concept of human rights to economic, cultural and social rights. She also thought that the procedures of the Commission and Court on Human Rights needed attention. There might be a need for a filter such as an Ombudsman to prevent too many cases coming to them. Senor Oreja expressed interest in this. The Prime Minister continued that we were particularly interested in the Warnock Report type of concerns. She also thought that attention should be paid to the right to privacy. Senor Oreja agreed that this ought to be pursued in the Council of Ministers.

The Prime Minister said that we would take steps to appoint a new United Kingdom member of the Commission on Human Rights as soon as possible.

Senor Oreja hoped that the Prime Minister would visit Strasbourg and address the Council of Europe. He was sure that a visit would make a great impression. The Prime Minister thanked him and promised to consider the invitation. She would want to have something new and interesting to say.

The meeting ended at 1545.

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

yours sincerely,


Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Prime Minister
CDP
24/1

④

Reference: X

Strasbourg, 18 January 1985

ore

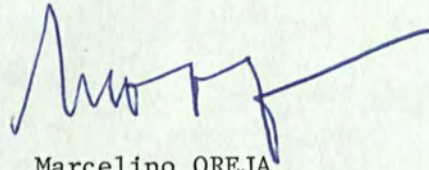
Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed my visit to London this week and above all our discussions on the Council of Europe.

Your views on the role of our Organisation in the building of Europe were particularly valuable. The fact that all its members regularly meet and act together will indeed make Europe more influential, and each member as well.

The generous hospitality extended to me during my stay was much appreciated and I should like to express my thanks to you and your Government for such a warm welcome.

Yours sincerely,



Marcelino OREJA

The Rt.Hon. Margaret THATCHER, M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON S.W.1.

mt