

CONFIDENTIALPRIME MINISTEREUROPEAN COUNCIL: BRIEFING MEETING

The briefs are attached. I suggest that you look at the Steering Brief only tonight.

You have already gone over with the Foreign Secretary and Michael Butler, enlargement, your initiative on unemployment, and own resources.

I suggest that at this meeting you focus on:

(i) IMPs (Brief 4) The Brief shows that there are ambiguities, probably deliberate ones, in the Commission proposal. We need to sort out very carefully what is and is not additional expenditure: if it is, how much; whether we can agree to additional Community loans to the Mediterranean; and how far we are ready to go to get a settlement (we have already put to the Germans the proposition that we should stick closely together at the Council).

(ii) DOOGE COMMITTEE (Brief 6) This is mainly a matter of procedure: how best to bring the Dooge Committee itself to an end and substitute bilateral contacts between governments? How to avoid any commitment to an eventual Inter-Governmental Conference? How to handle President Mitterrand's 'surprise' initiative if he takes it? Mr. Rifkind should advise.

Under the same heading, you might ask David Williamson to mention any problems which may arise on the Committee on a People's Europe.

(iii) STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY'S TECHNOLOGICAL BASE. The Commission have circulated a paper on this (see Brief No. 8). While generally acceptable, it contains some traps:

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(i) the Commission seeks a commitment to increasing R & D spending from 3 per cent to 6 per cent of the Community Budget;

(ii) they are also looking to an early commitment to RACE (Research into Advanced Communications in Europe) - though their paper says very little about it.

You will want to invite the Trade and Industry Secretary and the Chancellor to advise on how far we can go along with Commission proposals at this stage.

(iv) ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (Brief No. 9).

✓ Chancellor Kohl wants a discussion of these and again there is a Commission paper to serve as background. No decisions are required, though we shall need to keep a weather eye open for German attempts to get conclusions slanted towards their preoccupations.

(v) POLITICAL ISSUES. The FCO are working on a draft statement on the Middle East, which will be shown to you before being circulated to other member States. They are also planning to propose a brief and helpful statement on Mozambique.

We are warned that a letter from Craxi about the European Council is imminent and contains a new proposal about Famine in Africa. If it arrives tonight, you will need to consider it at the briefing meeting.

| We have allowed for another briefing meeting when you arrive in Brussels on Friday morning (1130-1245).

C.D.P

26 March 1985

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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

28 MARCH 1985

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