



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6th June, 1985

Dear Henry,

Thank you so much for your letter of 15th May about the signing of an agreement in principle between the European Democratic Group and the Alianza Popular. It was good of you to keep me informed and I would be delighted in due course to be the guest of the newly enlarged group.

I know that you were due to meet Senor Fraga in Venice earlier this week and I think you will have received a message before that meeting, letting you know that I would very much like to meet Senor Fraga in London. Arrangements are now in hand to find a mutually convenient date.

Yours ever

Rogers

Sir Henry Plumb DL MEP



MB

10 DOWNING STREET

6th June, 1985

The Prime Minister has now replied to the letter from Sir Henry Plumb (copy attached).

We must now arrange for Senor Fraga to see the Prime Minister in London which she has agreed with the Foreign Secretary. This needs to be done on the Party network as they will be meeting as Leaders of their respective political parties.

Could I ask you and Central Office to approach Senor Fraga in order to discuss possible dates. As far as the Prime Minister's diary is concerned Caroline Ryder will have to be consulted.

It is also important that the Foreign Secretary is kept fully in the picture at every stage.

I am therefore copying this letter to Charles Powell (No. 10), Caroline Ryder (No. 10), Adam Fergusson (FCO), John Houston (FCO), Colin Budd (FCO) and Scott Hamilton (Central Office).

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

The Chairman of the Party

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB
Det konservative folkeparti, DK
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Chairman

Sir Henry Plumb, DL, MEP
LONDON

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15th May, 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

The signing in Madrid earlier this week of an agreement in principle between ourselves and the Alianza Popular to form a common Group in the European Parliament when Spain enters the European Community seemed to me an appropriate moment to write to you about this forthcoming enlargement of the European Democratic Group, and more generally the Group's prospects for the future.

As you know, over the past 2 years there have been many exchanges of correspondence and visits between ourselves and the Alianza Popular. It was not until the end of last year, however, that Fraga specifically told us that he would like his colleagues to enter the European Democratic Group when Spanish Members joined the European Parliament: Fraga will not himself be a Member of the Parliament.

Since the Alianza Popular is both a Member of the International Democrat Union and sits with us in the Assembly of the Council of Europe, it was not entirely surprising that Fraga should regard us as his natural associates at Strasbourg. The past 6 months have been a time of rapid consolidation in our dealings with Fraga: we have, of course, kept in regular touch with John Gummer and Geoffrey Howe on the question. The culmination of this process was reached earlier this week in Madrid.

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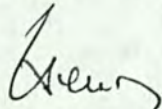
*P. help on
our files
(top copy gone to
steph shelburne)
CDP.*

Quite apart from the obvious philosophical similarities between ourselves and the Alianza Popular, I think it particularly appropriate that the European Democratic Group should be augmenting its numbers at this time. The Fontainebleau settlement has lanced the boil of the British budgetary problem, and the constructive British contribution in such fora as the Dooce Committee and the Committee on People's Europe have served merely to emphasise that the United Kingdom is now eager to play as full a part in the Community's development as any of our partners. Over the past 6 years, the fact that the British Conservatives sat in what was largely a Group of a single nationality has paradoxically diminished our influence in the Parliament: we have inevitably spent too much time talking to ourselves and not enough convincing our continental colleagues. The presence of Spaniards in our Group will significantly better our position. The balance of the Parliament may tilt a little to the left with the arrival of Spanish Socialist MEPs next year, but this will merely be an incentive for the Parties of the Centre and responsible Right to work even more closely together: it is perhaps worth pointing out that the Christian Democrats and the Gaullists are accepting with good grace our success in snaring the Alianza Popular.

The situation in Spain is naturally an evolving one. The Alianza Popular will not be the same in 5 years time as it is now; exposure to the European Community must surely have a beneficial effect on its policies and leadership. We British Conservatives in the European Parliament hope very much to be able to play some role in guiding the Alianza Popular's development: the strengthening of democratic practice in Spain was, after all, the most powerful single argument for Spanish accession.

I attach a copy of the English text of the agreement I signed with Fraga earlier this week. I hope very much that you will, in due course, do the newly enlarged Group the honour of being our guest, as you have so kindly been on a number of occasions over the past few years.

Yours ever,


HENRY PLUMB

Enc. RP. I hope you will be able to receive Fraga when he comes over in June.

4.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP AND THE ALIANZA POPULAR

1. It is agreed in principle, following a series of meetings between the respective leaderships, the Alianza Popular will join with the three existing constituent parties of the European Democratic Group (British Conservative Party, Danish Conservative Party and Ulster Unionist Party) in forming an expanded Group within the European Parliament on Spain's entry into the European Community.
2. Both the existing European Democratic Group and the Alianza Popular look forward to the Alianza Popular playing a full part in the work of the Group, with its MEPs assuming responsibilities within the Group and, on the Group's behalf, within all the organs of Parliament, such as the Bureau of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and Delegations.
3. In the interim period, (May-December 1985), there will be an accelerated programme of mutual preparation for the expansion of the Group within the Enlarged Community.

This will include:

1. The attendance of Alianza Popular Members at all Group Meetings.
 2. Visits to Spain of existing European Democratic Group Members for discussions of matters of mutual interest with the Alianza Popular.
 3. The attendance of an Alianza Popular representative at meetings of the European Democratic Group Bureau as an honorary Member.
 4. The mutual preparation of secretariat staff for the tasks related to expansion.
4. The Group will hold a week-long Conference in Madrid, 4 to 8 November, to finalise policy priorities within the expanded Group.

Henry Pennock

Manuel Fraga Iriberry

David Miller

James Douglas

Alan White

Fulford

Manly

Madrid
13-may-1985

Davis

M. James de Bury