

EUROPEAN MANIFESTO

Spoke to Peter Cropper on 29 September 1983 re preparation.

1. A Publications and Policy Committee was to have its first meeting on 4 October. Membership: Howe, Biffen, Spicer, Rifkind, Cropper (hon.sec.), Plumb, Bainbridge, Prout and Bob Ramsey. PC seeing GH on 30 September to discuss details.
2. A European Information Campaign Committee. The principal purpose of this was to disburse the money allocated to political parties for the elections. A substantial sum was already available for the calendar year 1983. Chairman Edward Kellett-Bowman.
3. The Campaign Committee. This was not yet set up. John Gummer would probably chair it. It would decide details of speakers, tactics, posters, etc.

The campaign guide was due to go to the printers on 1 January. In view of the unfamiliarity of much of the detailed business of the Community, it was desirable to circulate policy material earlier than with a national manifesto. PC envisaged something on the lines of a Right Approach to Europe to be published, say, on 1 January. This would mean agreeing a policy document in early December. I said this would be desirable in any case, in order that the Prime Minister should have an early sight of what was being proposed.

Authorisation

Cecil had agreed with the Prime Minister that Geoffrey should chair the Manifesto Committee, and that it should be made clear that the whole campaign was a Conservative campaign backed by the Conservative Party machine, and not a campaign by the European Democratic Group. However, the details of precisely how the manifesto was to be drafted and edited had not yet been agreed, and PC promised to keep in touch.

F.M.