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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 June 1984

EDG Links with other Parties in the European Parliament

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary minuted the Prime Minister on 22 June on this subject.

In the event, neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary found time for any real discussion of this at Fontainebleau, though the Prime Minister did mention it briefly to Mr. Schluter. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will wish to consider how best to carry the exercise forward.

You will wish to note that it was agreed between the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to nominate Sir Henry Plumb as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for discussions with the German Christian Democrats.

(C.D. POWELL)

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

T



Mark,
Have you
got one of
these?

10 DOWNING STREET

~~Duty Clerk~~

Mr Powell

Have you
stapler a copy
of my letter to

Did anyone of Roger Rose
consequence take care in 29/6
recording to
above CDP

any discussions in
Fountainhead with the
PM had with the
leaders of our
Centre Right parties,
he the attacked?

Stephen 28/6.



With the compliments of

John Houston

Special Adviser to the
Secretary of State

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH**



PM/84/105

PRIME MINISTER

Copy to Stephen Barberman please

EC(D)
cc PS
PS/Mr Ruffkind
Sir C Tickell
Mr Rennock
Mr Hanston

EDG Links with other Parties in the European Parliament

1. We have been concerned for some time that the isolation of the EDG in the European Parliament is unhelpful to the promotion of British interests in the Community. I wrote to you about this on 30 April. You raised with Herr Kohl at your meeting on 2 May our desire for closer relationships between our MEPs and those from his party, which he welcomed. You agreed that this should be followed up after the elections.
2. I held a meeting yesterday with John Gummer and Henry Plumb to discuss how best to follow up the elections rapidly with efforts to improve our relationships with other like-minded parties. One of our conclusions was that it was necessary for Government, Party and EDG all to make co-ordinated efforts to push in an agreed direction. We felt that the Fontainebleau Summit might offer a good opportunity for contacts with some of the appropriate leaders both at Prime Ministerial and at Foreign Secretary level.
3. We agreed that the first objective should be to attempt to establish a closer working relationship with the Christian Democrats, who are the mainstream centre-right parties throughout much of Europe. We should also complement this with efforts to sustain a good centre-right majority coalition in the Parliament.
4. With this in mind, I suggest that you raise the issue again with Herr Kohl, and for the first time with M. Werner, Mr Lubbers, and Mr Schluter. I attach speaking notes which I hope are helpful. I would also propose to talk to Andreotti and Tindemans. I will also have an opportunity to talk to Chirac at the EDU leaders meeting in Oslo on 29/30 June, where I will be representing you.



5. Our meeting yesterday also discussed questions of the relationship between the EDG, the Government and the Party, and between MPs and MEPs about which I will be writing to you in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
22 June 1984

SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR SCHLUTER
AT FONTAINEBLEAU

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. Want to raise a point about the relationship between our parties in the European Parliament. Our MEPs sit in the same group and have an excellent relationship. Very pleased that you improved your vote in the European elections and now have 4 MEPs instead of 2. Our own result not as good as landslide of 1979, but still very good for one year into Westminster Parliament - majority of seats, and clear lead in popular vote over Labour.
2. We are interested in trying to extend and improve EDG links with other like-minded parties in the European Parliament, in particular the Christian Democrats. I am sure you will welcome this. I and Geoffrey Howe are raising this with appropriate Christian Democrat leaders here in Fontainebleau, and our MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers. Our objective is first to make it clear that we want our MEPs in the Parliament to be able to play their full part in the multi-party arrangements there and second, to propose that the establishment of closer links between the Christian Democrats and the EDG should be seriously attempted.
3. If, as I hope, you welcome this, you may wish to take it up as appropriate in your meetings, in particular with Herr Kohl.

SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETINGS AT FONTAINEBLEAU
WITH MR LUBBERS AND MR WERNER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. Want to raise a point about the relationship between our parties in the European Parliament. Your MEPs sit as members of the European People's Party, the Christian Democrat group, and ours form the European Democrat Group, together with the Danish Conservatives. Up to now there has been a loose co-operation between centre-right parties, allowing them to make good use of their overall majority on important issues.
2. It is our view that the election of a new Parliament provides an opportunity to take this further. The European Parliament works through grouping of like-minded parties from several countries, rather than national groups on their own. We would like to see the EDG establish closer and more formal links with the Christian Democrat group.
3. I hope you will welcome this, and that your party's MEPs will give it their support.
4. I and Geoffrey Howe will be raising this with other appropriate leaders here, and the MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers.

SPEAKING NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH HERR KOHL
AT FONTAINEBLEAU

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EDG

1. At our meeting at Chequers I raised with you the question of our MEPs working more closely together. You welcomed this and we agreed that our personal representatives should discuss it after the elections.

2. I have asked _____ to be my personal representative for these discussions. I hope he can meet rapidly with your nominee to take matters forward in a practical way, as decisions will be taken this week and over the next few weeks by groups in the European Parliament on how they are to organise themselves.

3. Have heard reports that/^{some} Christian Democrats in EP are thinking of entering a working arrangement with Socialists. Am sure you would not welcome this (I would find it very retrograde step). Hope reports incorrect.

4. We would like to see the EDG establish closer and more formal links with the Christian Democrat Group.

5. Our relationship with your party has long been close and friendly. We share views on many major world issues. Hope that you will welcome this proposal, and that your party's MEPs will work to support it.

6. I and Geoffrey Howe will be talking to other appropriate leaders here about this, and the MEPs are pursuing it with their opposite numbers.