

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 22/2.



FCS/84/57

ALL CABINET COLLEAGUES

European Elections

This was not a cabinet meeting - but a party meeting. MI.

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1. At our meeting on 23 February we agreed that Ministers should look at Departmental work with a view to identifying policy initiatives which could be timed for announcement during the European elections campaign, or incorporated in the manifesto. I would be grateful if all colleagues could follow this up and let me have by 19 March a list of such initiatives, whether domestic or European, indicating timing and including an assessment of the impact of the announcement.

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2. In the period between now and the European elections, issues of policy will arise in the European Parliament which could offer scope to the opposition to exaggerate differences between the EDG and the Government. It will, therefore, be important to take steps to be aware in advance of any potential problems, and to engage in closer and deeper consultation with the relevant EDG Spokesmen than would be necessary at other times. I would be grateful if colleagues would alert Ministers, Special Advisers and, where appropriate, officials, to the need to follow this up. The Party Chairman and I have already stressed to EDG leaders the importance of their Spokesmen taking the initiative to contact Departments, but we should not rely on this alone. Quite often, I fear, an initiative may well be necessary from the Government side.

/3.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



3. I am sending copies of this letter to all Cabinet colleagues, the Party Chairman, the Chief Whip, and to Peter Cropper.

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

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
27 February 1984

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Sherborne.

I have told the F./C.O.

that in future papers on this
subject should not be an
government notepaper and should
not bear the inscription "Foreign
and Commercial Office"

Mr. Gals

M 25/2

I am bound to say
— I did wonder!

Repen

M 29/2

28/2



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
Whitehall
London SW1H

*nbpw
JWB
19/3*

19. March 1984

Sir Geoffrey,

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

I am responding to your minute of 27 February which invited lists of policy initiatives which might be announced during the European elections campaign.

I enclose such a list for the Department of Education and Science, with approximate dates. As you will appreciate, precise dates are in most cases uncertain, and will depend on a variety of factors. I have included three possible announcements concerned with European co-operation in science. The first of these, part of our work aimed at getting value for money both domestically and in Europe, will no doubt be seen by some as casting doubts on our commitment to European co-operation. But I do not expect it to have a major impact on the public at large.

I should add that I expect to attend an Education Council in Brussels on 21 May. The agenda has yet to be settled, but I shall consider when the time comes whether it provides an opportunity for helpful publicity.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of your minute.

Enclosure / Kerr

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: LIST OF POLICY STATEMENTS UP TO 14 JUNE

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Approximate Date</u>	<u>Impact on UK public</u>
<u>Schools</u>		
Policy statement on science curriculum	April/May	Favourable
Examination to supplement A levels	April/May	Mixed: but majority favourable
Decision on re-organisation of Liverpool's secondary schools	April/May	Uncertain
Decision on 16+ examinations	June	Mixed
<u>Teaching Quality</u>		
Establishment of Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education	April/May	Favourable
<u>Higher Education</u>		
Proposed enquiry into validation of non-university courses	April/May	Favourable
University efficiency study	April	Favourable
Grants for EC students (possible statement following reference to European Court)	May	Unfavourable (but timing determined by courts)
<u>Science</u>		
Review of European cooperation in high energy particle physics (announcement of review)	April	Unfavourable to articulate minority
Spallation neutron source at Rutherford Appleton laboratory: proposal for European participation	May/June	Favourable
Review of European Molecular Biology Laboratory (announcement of outcome of review - to remain a member)	April	Favourable

Two. P1 : Direct Elections to the European Parl.

1. 9 MAR 1984

