



10 DOWNING STREET

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to Sir P Cadogan

From the Private Secretary

3 October 1984

X ref

Ad Hoc Committee on Institutions

The Prime Minister has read with interest UKREP Brussels telegram no. 3115 summarising the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutions. The Prime Minister was a little surprised to see that we were giving such high priority to proposing a common approach in external affairs (see paragraph 8(ii) of the telegram). I assume that in fact you have no more in mind than what appeared in the Prime Minister's paper "Europe-The Future". It would be helpful if you could confirm this.

I see that the same subject appeared in the German list of priorities and that they are to do a paper on the subject. So it will come up anyway. But you will want to note the Prime Minister's view that we should not be too assiduous in promoting discussion of this.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 October, 1984

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Dear Charles,

Ad Hoc Committee on Institutions

Thank you for your letter of 3 October recording the Prime Minister's comments on UKREP Brussels telegram number 3115 about the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutions.

Mr Rifkind was, in fact, quoting almost verbatim from "Europe - The Future". It was agreed in the first meeting of the committee that he should contribute a paper on the internal market, and this is now in preparation, in consultation with the DTI. On external policy there is no question of going beyond "Europe - The Future". But it remains our aim to bring political cooperation and Community activity to work more closely together.

Yours ever,

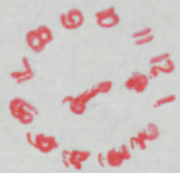
Colin Budd

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Private Secretary

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10 OCT 1984

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3115 OF 1 OCTOBER,

INFO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG,

ROUTINE COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS BONN

ATHENS LISBON MADRID,

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS STRASBOURG. mt

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS (DOOGE COMMITTEE).
FIRST MEETING, BRUSSELS, 28 SEPTEMBER.

SUMMARY.

1. MR RIFKIND, AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, ATTENDED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE FONTAINEBLEAU EUROPEAN COUNCIL. DISCUSSION WAS CONFINED TO GENERAL OBJECTIVES, WORKING METHODS AND SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED. DOOGE CHAIRED ABLY AND FIRMLY, AND THE OUTCOME WAS BROADLY SATISFACTORY. THE MAIN SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION, AT LEAST IN THE EARLY STAGES, PROMISE TO BE SPECIFIC, PRACTICAL AND VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH THE GROUND COVERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S PAPER 'EUROPE - THE FUTURE', WHICH DOOGE HELPFULLY ASKED TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE.

2. THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT TWO WEEK INTERVALS AND WILL AIM TO SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE DECEMBER EUROPEAN COUNCIL. NEITHER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NOR, INITIALLY, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL WILL BE ADMITTED AS OBSERVERS. NO DECISIONS ON FORM OF SECRETARIAT OR NATURE OF FINAL REPORT. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE WORKING PAPERS ON PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS. MR RIFKIND VOLUNTEERED TO PRESENT PAPER ON INTERNAL MARKET.

DETAIL

A. OBJECTIVES.

3. OPENING THE PROCEEDINGS DOOGE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE COMMITTEE TO OPERATE AS A UNIT, TO CAST OFF DEPENDENCE ON NATIONAL POSITIONS. ITS MEMBERS DID NOT REPRESENT THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THE COMMITTEE WAS INDEPENDENT. IT SHOULD DRAW ON REPORTS, PAPERS AND SPEECHES ALREADY AVAILABLE. IT SHOULD AIM TO SUBMIT A SUBSTANTIAL INTERIM REPORT TO THE DUBLIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE HOPED THE COMMITTEE WOULD AGREE AS A UNIT ON THE NATURE OF ITS TASK AND INVITED VIEWS.

4. A LONG TOUR DE TABLE FOLLOWED, REPORTED IN MIFT. IN IT MR RIFKIND ARGUED THAT:

(1) THE MAIN OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTED:

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(II) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS AND ADVANCE THEIR OWN PROPOSALS, BUT THE OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING ENDORSEMENT FROM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND:

(III) AS DOODGE HAD SAID IN HIS INTRODUCTION, IT SHOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE TO PUT FORWARD VIEWS AS A UNIT, AND ONLY IF THAT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS WHETHER TO PUT FORWARD ALTERNATIVES:

(IV) UNIMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS SHOULD BE EXAMINED AFRESH ALONG WITH IDEAS RECENTLY PUT FORWARD BY E.G MITTERRAND AND THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. DOODGE SUMMED UP THAT THERE WAS A HIGH DEGREE OF AGREEMENT ON

(A) THE INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE: ITS MEMBERS WERE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, WHO ENJOYED THE LATTERS' CONFIDENCE AND WOULD NO DOUBT REPORT BACK TO OR DISCUSS WITH THEM THE OUTCOME OF EACH MEETING. THIS PROCESS OF DIALOGUE WOULD BE GOOD PREPARATION FOR THE EVENTUAL DISCUSSION BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

(B) THE NEED TO RANGE WIDELY BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, SINCE THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT COVER THE WHOLE FIELD. THE COMMITTEE'S APPROACH TO THESE SUBJECTS SHOULD BE PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL:

(C) AVOIDING SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON DIAGNOSIS, BUT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES MUST BE EXAMINED:

(D) THE HOPE THAT THE REPORT COULD BE UNANIMOUS, BUT SOME WERE DETERMINED NOT TO DILUTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN FAVOUR OF UNANIMITY. IF UNANIMITY WAS UNATTAINABLE THE COMMITTEE WOULD NEED TO PRESENT OPTIONS: IT WOULD AIM AT UNANIMITY BUT NOT FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

(E) THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WOULD BE DRAFTED IN TERMS OF GUIDELINES, NOT SOME LEGALLY BINDING DOCUMENT.

B. SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AND WORKING PAPERS.

6. DURING THE OPENING DISCUSSION, VAN EEKELN (NETHERLANDS) HAD SUGGESTED THAT EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING A WORKING PAPER ON ONE OF THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION IN ORDER TO SPEED UP WORK. WHEN DOODGE SOUGHT SUGGESTIONS, RUHFUS (FRG) JUMPED IN WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST: COMMON ACTION IN EXTERNAL POLICY, BUILDING ON THE POCO ACQUIS, SECURITY POLICY: ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION: THE MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS: INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY: CULTURE: AND HOW TO TRANSLATE THESE INSTITUTIONALLY INTO ACTION, I.E COUNCIL WORKING METHODS, INCREASED POWERS FOR THE COMMISSION, POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

7. VAN EEKELLEN, PICKING UP AN EARLIER CONTRIBUTION FROM MOLLER (DENMARK), THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH THREE GROUPS OF ISSUES:

- (I) IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITIES (E.G. INTERNAL MARKET, SERVICES ETC):
- (II) NEW ACTIVITIES BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE TREATIES, (IN WHICH, CURIOUSLY, HE INCLUDED THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICIES AND CONVERGENCE),
- (III) FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF VARIABLE GEOMETRY.

HE OFFERED TO DO A PAPER ON THE INSTITUTIONS.

8. MR RIFKIND SUGGESTED THREE BROAD SUBJECTS:

- (I) WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY COULD RESPOND TO U.S AND JAPANESE COMPETITION (INTERNAL MARKET/INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COLLABORATION):
- (II) A COMMON APPROACH IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:
- (III) EXAMINING WAYS OF MAKING THE INSTITUTIONS MORE EFFICIENT AND STREAMLINED.

DOOGE HELPFULLY ASKED AT THIS POINT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PAPER TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, WHICH WE DID.

9. ANDRIESSEN (COMMISSION) ADDED UNEMPLOYMENT AND VARIABLE GEOMETRY. VARFIS (GREECE) STRESSED CONVERGENCE. FAURE (FRANCE) READ VARFIS A LECTURE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO COULD NOT AND THOSE WHO WOULD NOT ACT AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY, THEN LISTED STANDARDS, THE UNDEVELOPED COMMON POLICIES OF THE TREATIES (TRANSPORT, SOCIAL AND REGIONAL, MONETARY AFFAIRS, HIGH TECHNOLOGIES, SECURITY, AND - TO BE TAKEN AT THE END - INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. HE SPOKE OF THE NEED TO REINFORCE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND OF THE DELICATE BALANCE IN THE TREATIES BETWEEN FEDERAL AND CONFEDERAL FORMS. HERMAN (BELGIUM) SUGGESTED THAT FAURE DO A PAPER ON SECURITY (BUT FAURE THOUGHT THAT PREMATURE), THE COMMISSION ON THE SUBJECTS ANDRIESSEN MENTIONED, AND RUHFUS ON INTERNAL MARKET, WHILE HE WOULD OFFER THE COMMITTEE PAPERS HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN FOR THE E.P ON MONETARY MATTERS AND COMPETITIVITY. TAKEN ABACK BY THIS TAKE-OVER BID, DOOGE SAID THE CHAIR WOULD LIST AND GROUP SUBJECTS.

10. RUHFUS VOLUNTEERED TO DO EITHER INTERNAL MARKET OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND GRACEFULLY CHOSE THE LATTER WHEN MR RIFKIND VOLUNTEERED TO DO THE FORMER. MR RIFKIND SUGGESTED THE PAPERS SHOULD BE KEPT RELATIVELY SHORT (HE HAS IN MIND 5 OR 6 PAGES) AND POINT TO SPECIFIC ACTION. DOOGE ADDED THAT THE END RESULT MUST BE COMPREHENSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. MOLLER OFFERED A PAPER ON THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES BY THE NEXT MEETING, AND VARFIS UNDERTOOK TO PRODUCE ONE ON CONVERGENCE BY 24 OCTOBER. FAURE ACCEPTED FERRI'S SUGGESTION THAT HE DO A SHORT PAPER ON THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND TO INTRODUCE A GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE ON THE EVENING OF 10 OCTOBER.

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C. PROCEDURE AND WORKING METHODS.

11. SEE MY SECOND M I F T.

D. NEXT MEETING.

12. DOOGE AGREED THAT A GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE SHOULD OCCUPY 10 OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION ON 11 OCTOBER OF SOME OR ALL OF THE PAPERS ON MONETARY AFFAIRS, COMPETITIVITY (BOTH HERMAN) AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RUHFUS), DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE E.P ACCEPTED THE INVITATION FOR THE AFTERNOON OF 11 OCTOBER.
(COMMENT: UNLIKELY AS THEY ARE IN PLENARY SESSION IN STRASBOURG).

FCO ADVANCE TO:-

FCO - P.S, PS/MR RIFKIND, RENWICK, FAIRWEATHER.
CAB - WILLIAMSON, STAPLETON, LAMBERT.
NO.10- POWELL.

FCO PASS SAVING TO STRASBOURG.

BUTLER

FRAME INSTITUTIONAL
ECB(D)

COPIES TO.
MR POWELL NO.10. D-ST.
ADVANCE ADDRESSEES.

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

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