



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 July 1976

Dear Tom.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS 12/13 JULY

Thank you for sending me your draft record of the meetings of the European Council on 12/13 July, as reconstructed from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's notes.

On the basis of some brief notes which the Prime Minister also made during the meetings, and his own comments after them, I would suggest the following additions to your draft:-

Paragraph 7, line 13 after "Mr. Den Uyl" add
"said that the question of seats for Ulster was a matter for the United Kingdom, and not for the European Council. He. . ."

Paragraph 8, line 9 after "principles of proportionality" add

"In suggesting this, he was looking at the problem in a Communautaire way. Would his colleagues prefer to separate Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and consider England as a separate entity?"

At the end of paragraph 12 add the following passage
"M. Tindemans said that he could not agree to this, but Belgium would make a concession to reach a consensus. Mr. Callaghan said that he could not formally ratify his agreement until after the debate in the House of Commons that evening.

President Giscard asked about the legal form of the agreement to establish direct elections. After Monsieur Ortoli had explained about the Convention, Mr. Callaghan said that we were strongly in favour of having a Convention, as the Assembly itself had proposed, rather than any other form of Community Act. People were expecting a Convention and to change tack might well cause confusion. It was important to avoid any possibility of question as to the legal basis

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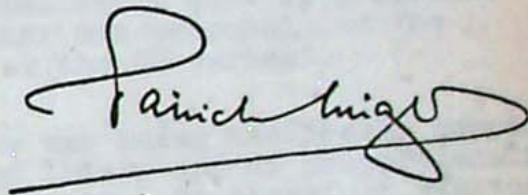
for direct elections, which could conceivably be exploited by those who were opposed to the elections in principle. In the UK Parliament, there were people who watched such legal matters closely.

After a discussion on the date for direct elections, it was agreed that the aim should be to hold them in May or June 1978.

Mr. Den Uyl raised the question of continuing national derogations. Mr. Callaghan said that we must retain the possibility of nominating members in 1978 if this proved to be necessary. We would do our utmost to hold elections in the United Kingdom at the same time as elsewhere in the Community, and hoped that we would not need to make use of the derogation. But the business of drawing up constituencies would inevitably take us longer than member states who used a list system, and we would have important constitutional legislation to enact. Mr. Joergensen also confirmed that the Danes would have to maintain a similar derogation."

I am copying this letter to Hayden Phillips (Home Office) and to Chris Brearley and Roy Denman (Cabinet Office).

Yours Ev.



P. J. Weston, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.