



I would
not agree
with
anything!

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER,

Especially the
last 3 pages

my

1. HERewith COPY OF
HUGH THOMAS'S LETTER TO
GEOFFREY HOWE DATED
15th OCTOBER.

2. ARE YOU COMFORT
THAT I SHOULD REPLY
IN THE WAY THAT I
SUGGEST. ?

Jan.

20/10/1982.

Romas

20th October 1982

Study Group on Europe

Thank you for having sent to me a copy of your letter to Geoffrey dated 15th October.

I find myself in respectful agreement with ~~all~~ *much of* that you write in that letter.

I am a Gaullist; I believe in the free movement of people, goods and capital between the Member States of the Community; I espouse the cause of "Europe des patries".

I want to see the maximum cooperation between the Member States which have so much in common and yet whose history and traditions are so diverse.

I am suspicious of the presumed advantage of the significant bureaucracies which have grown up in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg; I spoke and voted against the Second and Third Readings of the European Assembly Direct Elections Bill and enclose the text of the speech which I made on that occasion.

My constituents in Eastbourne elect, directly their representative to the Borough Council, the County Council and to the House of Commons. I do not think that their prospects of happiness or of being better governed have been improved by having a fourth elected representative in the European Assembly.

.../...

Like you, I am no enthusiast for the European State, whether Federal or otherwise; there is a distinct (and to me unwelcome) element of dirigisme in the activities of the Commission and of the Council of Ministers, in whose assumed superior wisdom I have little confidence.

There has been a threat over the past 30 years and more to multiply the organs of government and diminish the status and responsibility of the individual. I think that our Party caught the tide of public opinion about this; and yet, too often, I see the Community moving in the opposite direction.

It is only right to acknowledge that there is a significant body of opinion within the Conservative Party which disagrees with these thoughts; but I think that these views do not differ significantly from those of the Prime Minister.

I will show a copy of your letter to Geoffrey and of this reply, to the Prime Minister and I would welcome a talk. I have asked Tessa to give you a ring, in the hope that you will come and have lunch one day.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to Geoffrey.

IAN GOW

Professor Lord Thomas

22/11/82

Centre for Policy Studies

8 Wilfred Street · London SW1E 6PL · Telephone 01-828 1176 Cables: Centrepol London

5th Nov 1982

My dear Ian

European Study Group

I am sorry not to have answered before your long, interesting and important letter about the future of Europe. (I think Wolfe Tone became a revolutionary because Pitt would not answer his letters!) Meanwhile, Geoffrey Howe has not yet answered my letter to him on the subject. I will, if I may be in touch with you when he does reply on that matter.

Yours ever

Hugh

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