

Private SecretaryEuropean Council: Political Cooperation subjects

1. I attach a copy of the French texts of the Presidency conclusions in the form in which they emerged from meetings of the Political Directors today. English texts will be available at dinner tonight, when it is assumed that they may be discussed.

2. I have the following comments:-

- (i) East/West Relations
  - (a) Poland: Text is satisfactory
  - (b) Debt, credits etc: This follows the lines of the version which the Secretary of State saw over the weekend. The mention of credits is a bit less prominent: some wanted to cut it out altogether. The remaining square brackets represent Danish reserves: the Danes have been complaining for some time that we risk raising American expectations as to what the European allies might be prepared to do. It was not helpful that the White House issued a statement on 25 March foreseeing a meeting at which "agreement would be reached on the limitation of officially backed credits to the Soviet Union" (Washington telno 1005).
  - (c) Satisfactory text.
- (ii) Afghanistan: The text does little more than endorse the statement made by the Belgian Presidency on Afghanistan Day (21 March) - copy attached.
- (iii) Middle East: The text omits most of the general verbiage to which the Secretary of State objected, so that the passage about events on the West Bank is prominent. It is the Greeks who are not prepared at my level to express "satisfaction" at the participation of four of the Ten in the Sinai MFO.

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(iv) Central America: I explained to the Secretary of State that the desertion of the Danes and Dutch had left the UK alone in refusing to say that economic aid by the Ten and the Community to the Central European region would be increased. Hence the square brackets. The FCO say that they could accept a compromise which blurs the question whose aid exactly is going to be increased, eg

"The European Council however agree that the aid given by the member states of the Community and by the Community itself for development in Central America and the Caribbean should be increased within the limit of their possibilities".

(v) Turkey: There is a disagreement of substance between those who think that Tindemans had the wool pulled over his eyes by the Turks (Danes, Dutch, French and Greeks) and those who were pleased that his impressions had coincided with the views which they had been expressing for some time (especially FRG and UK). The text is meant to cover up the gap.

(vi) Transatlantic Relations: This short text is designed to show President Reagan that his message on the 25th Anniversary of the Community was appreciated, and to reflect any discussion which there may be about the proposals made by Colombo and others.

*JL Bullard*

29 March 1982

(J L Bullard)

copies to:

|             |                     |                      |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr Whitmore | Sir Kenneth Couzens | Sir Michael Palliser |
| Mr Coles    |                     | Lord Bridges         |
| Mr Ingham   |                     | Mr Hannay            |
|             |                     | Mr Fenn              |
|             |                     | Mr Cooper            |