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EHG(D)(79)9

COPY NO 1

21 November 1979

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, DUBLIN

29/30 NOVEMBER 1979

PROGRESS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION

Brief to Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To have the European Union Reports noted without discussion.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. No comment on Foreign Ministers and Commission reports on European Union. Assume they will be published as in previous years.

BACKGROUND

References:

- A - November 1976 Declaration of Heads of Government
- B - Foreign Ministers Report on Progress towards European Union 1979
- C - Commission Report on Progress towards European Union 1979
[to be attached]

3. When the European Council adopted its Declaration winding up work on the Tindemans Report in November 1976 it asked that Foreign Ministers and the Commission report back to Heads of Government annually on progress towards European Union. The European Council will be invited formally to take note of both reports.

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4. The Council's report is anodyne and will have been approved by Member States before the European Council. Although it possibly lays undue emphasis on the European Monetary System it uses the language of the Presidency conclusions after the June 1979 European Council which set it up.

5. There is no need to comment on the Commission's report, which is produced on their own responsibility and reflects their own distinctive views.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

21 November 1979

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TO FLASH FOO TEL NO. 437 OF 30 NOVEMBER 1976
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N.I.P.T.: EUROPEAN COUNCIL THE HAGUE 29/30 NOVEMBER 1976

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL STATEMENT ON TINDEMANS REPORT:

BEGINS

1. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL EXAMINED THE REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION SUBMITTED TO IT BY MR TINDEMANS AT ITS REQUEST. IT HEARD AN ACCOUNT GIVEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT, AND APPROVED THE GENERAL LINES OF THE COMMENTS BY THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE REPORT.

2. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL INDICATED ITS VERY GREAT INTEREST IN THE ANALYSES AND PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY MR TINDEMANS. IT SHARED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER ON THE NEED TO BUILD EUROPEAN UNION BY STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICAL SOLIDARITY OF THE 9 MEMBER STATES AND THEIR PEOPLES, BOTH INTERNALLY AND IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND GRADUALLY TO PROVIDE THE UNION WITH THE INSTRUMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS NECESSARY FOR ITS OPERATION. IT CONSIDERED THAT EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD MAKE ITSELF FELT EFFECTIVELY IN THE DAILY LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS BY ASSISTING IN THE PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR LIFE.

3. ON THIS OCCASION THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAD A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MUST UNDERLIE THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN UNION OVER THE COMING YEARS. EUROPEAN UNION WILL BE BUILT PROGRESSIVELY BY CONSOLIDATING AND DEVELOPING WHAT HAS BEEN

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ACHIEVED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, WITH THE EXISTING TREATIES FORMING A BASIS FOR NEW POLICIES. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION IS BASIC TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF STABILITY SOLIDARITY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROPEAN UNION. PRIORITY IMPORTANCE MUST BE GIVEN TO COMBATING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND TO DRAWING UP COMMON ENERGY AND RESEARCH POLICIES AND A GENUINE REGIONAL AND SOCIAL POLICY FOR THE COMMUNITY.

4. THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE MUST ALSO MAKE THE BEST USE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE 9 GOVERNMENTS IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THE MEMBER STATES ARE PREPARED TO EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY IN A PROGRESSIVELY CONVERGENT MANNER. THIS FORM OF CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY MUST LEAD TO THE SEARCH FOR A COMMON EXTERNAL POLICY.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AS DEFINED BY THE REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, WITH THE INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT COMMON POLITICAL APPROACH, REAFFIRM THEIR DESIRE TO INCREASE THE AUTHORITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES FOR THEM, AND CONFIRM THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AS A DRIVING FORCE.

6. ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL INVITES THEM, AND THE COMMISSION IN THE SECTORS FOR WHICH IT IS COMPETENT, TO REPORT TO IT ONCE A YEAR ON THE RESULTS OBTAINED AND THE PROGRESS WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THE SHORT-TERM IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE UNION, THUS TRANSLATING INTO REALITY THE COMMON CONCEPTION OF EUROPEAN UNION.

2. PLEASE ADVISE TO SHEPHERD AND GREY LTD(1).

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Brussels, 23 November 1979

REPORT

on European Union
from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
to the European Council

This report by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the third of its kind, will be on the same lines as its predecessors, that is to say that in this report the Ministers for Foreign Affairs do not wish to take stock of Community activity as a whole, but much rather to highlight the decisions and significant achievements regarding the aims pursued, which are to result in European Union. What are these aims? The European Council of 29 and 30 November 1976 outlined them itself:

- the strengthening of the practical solidarity of the nine Member States and their peoples, both internally and in their external relations;
- providing European Union progressively with the instruments and institutions necessary for its action. Union should also be reflected in everyday life.

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I

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs would like to direct particular attention to major developments such as the first direct elections to the European Assembly, the launching of the European Monetary System and the signature of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Communities. Notwithstanding the challenges with which the Community has been faced as a result of the world energy crisis, the Community has made important progress.

1. The election of members to the European Parliament held from 7 to 10 June 1979 is a token of an already advanced stage in European Union and of the participation of the peoples of the Member States in the construction of Europe. It is not simply a technical transition from one method of designating the members of the European Parliament to another method, but also an event the importance of which cannot be under-estimated in view of the great hope it offers. By their participation in this election the peoples of the Member States have expressed their hope and their resolve to advance, effectively and logically, the construction of Europe. This call must not be left unanswered.

2. The entry into force of the European Monetary System is one of the cornerstones of this effective and logical construction. Although the prime objective of the European Monetary System is to establish increased monetary stability in the Community, it cannot be confined to that. It must also form a basic part of a wide-ranging strategy and of policies aimed at increased growth in stable conditions, a gradual return to full employment, the harmonization of living standards, a better adjustment of industry to meet the challenges offered by the present-day economy and the reduction of regional disparities within the Community. The system is designed to facilitate the convergence of economic development and will therefore certainly assist in giving fresh impetus to the process of European Union.

In addition to specific provisions (Regulation on interest subsidies) adopted or to be adopted under the European Monetary System, with a view to reducing regional disparities, and the creation of a new Community instrument (the ORTOLI facility), the Community has at its disposal a new Regulation on the Regional Fund. The originality of this instrument is that it permits specific intervention by the Community aimed at mitigating the local repercussions and combatting the structural effects of particularly serious events in certain regions.

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3. The challenge that concerns the Community in the energy field and the way in which the Community faces this challenge will have a far-reaching effect on its future. It is for this reason that the Community has stepped up its efforts to combat the energy crisis in order to achieve the following objectives:

- more moderate and rational use of oil as a non-renewable natural resource;
- continuing economic growth no longer reliant on an increase in oil consumption but based on the development of other energy resources;
- ensure that the most-needy developing countries will also have the energy necessary for their growth.

The European Council meeting in Strasbourg on 21 and 22 June 1979, having considered the need for urgent action in the face of the serious world energy situation affirmed the Community's will to play an exemplary role. It undertook that Community oil imports between 1980 and 1985 would be maintained at an annual level not higher than that for 1978, that transparency of the market would be improved, that the process of redeployment of energy within the Community would be extended and that the policy of energy saving would be strengthened.

4. The strength which the Community needs to meet the many challenges facing it will not be found only by strengthening its internal cohesion but also by opening outwards.

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5. First of all by opening up to welcome those States which have manifested the desire to join the present nine Community States. The signing of the Greek Accession Treaty is a first step along this road. The negotiations now being actively pursued with Portugal and Spain should reach a successful conclusion as quickly as possible.

6. This also involves opening up towards the developing countries, the poorest of which are alarmingly affected by the repercussions of the energy crisis. An indication of this opening is the signing of the new Lomé Convention. It consolidates the achievements of the earlier Convention while introducing a number of new and innovatory features which take into account both the experience gained and the specific requirements of our ACP partners.

7. Finally, the Community must open up to the world at large, and of the many instances which could be given here, the multilateral trade negotiations are worthy of notice. As a result of the constructive efforts made in particular by the Community, a balanced result has been reached which must, however, be implemented in a uniformly correct manner by the signatories.

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II

1. In the course of 1979 the Nine discussed, within the framework of European Political Co-operation, the major political issues of international concern. In this regard the Ministers wish to underline that both through the activities of political co-operation and through the Community's external relations activities, the Europe of the Nine is increasingly regarded by the external world as a coherent entity in world affairs.

2. The agreed procedures for the gradual association of candidate countries with Nine co-ordination within the framework of European Political Co-operation were fully implemented. In the case of Greece, following the signature of the treaties on 28 May last, this process has been intensified and Greece now consults with the Nine (through the Presidency) on all issues discussed in political co-operation. In addition Greece is kept abreast of Nine co-ordination at the United Nations and other international organizations, and at meetings of Ambassadors of the Nine in third countries. Following the second Ministerial meeting in the framework of Spanish accession negotiations held on 18 September last, Spain is kept informed on a regular basis of developments within Nine co-operation. At the appropriate time the Nine will implement similar procedures with regard to Portugal.

3. The Nine attach particular importance to their close co-operation on issues relating to the CSCE process. In addition to consulting regularly on developments related to implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, they have been engaged in extensive preparations for the next CSCE follow-up meeting which will open in Madrid 1980.

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4. As at previous CSCE meetings the Nine intend to make an active contribution to the Madrid meeting. They aim to make it a significant step in the development of East-West relations in Europe, thus giving a fresh impetus to the CSCE process and contributing to the advancement of detente. At Madrid the Nine will press for better implementation of all aspects of the Helsinki Final Act. They will also seek to have the meeting adopt new measures covering all the main areas of the Final Act which will effectively promote further implementation and enlarge the scope of co-operation among the participating States.

5. To this end they are preparing their positions carefully on all the substantive and procedural issues connected with the meeting. Among the proposals they are studying is the French proposal for a European Disarmament Conference. In addition they are engaging in bilateral consultations with other participating States in order to discuss all these questions and to facilitate a greater understanding of each other's objectives for Madrid and for the future of the CSCE process.

6. The Nine have continued to play an active role in the deliberations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. During the present 34th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Nine maintained their practice of seeking to concert their views, to express their common attitudes and to adopt common voting positions wherever possible. A general statement on major world issues was made on behalf of the Nine by the Irish Foreign Minister in the General Debate at the beginning of the Session. At the United Nations the Nine have in particular continued their efforts to promote respect for and observance of human rights throughout the world.

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7. The Nine consult closely with a view to contributing in a constructive manner to the disarmament process. They participated actively at the first substantive meeting of the Disarmament Commission earlier this year and made important contributions to the formulation of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, agreed by consensus at the Commission, which will now be referred to the Committee on Disarmament.

8. Six countries of the Nine are members of the new Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. The Nine consult regularly on the issues treated in this important disarmament forum. The Nine maintain a high level of co-ordination on the whole range of disarmament issues which come before the United Nations General Assembly which they regard as an indispensable instrument for facilitating discussion and agreement among the members of the international community in the field of disarmament.

9. The Nine continue to follow clearly developments in the Middle East. On the occasion of the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel on 26 March, the Nine issued a statement to the effect that they considered the Treaty to constitute a correct application of the principles of Security Council Resolution 242 to Egyptian-Israeli relations. They added that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be established only within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. In their statement of 18 June the Nine deplored any action or statement which might constitute an obstacle to the search for peace. They accordingly opposed the Israeli Government's policy of establishing settlements in occupied territories nor could they accept claims by Israel to sovereignty over these territories.

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10. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Nine on 25 September, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs endorsed the right of the Palestinian people, within the framework set by a peace settlement, to exercise their right to determine their own future as a people. He further stressed their right, through their representatives, to play their full part in the negotiation of a comprehensive peace settlement.

11. The Nine remain particularly concerned by the unstable situation in Lebanon which they see as related to the problem of the Middle East as a whole. In statements of 18 June and 11 September, the Nine reaffirmed their support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

12. After the significant progress achieved at the General Committee in Damascus in December 1978, the Euro-Arab Dialogue has recently suffered a slowing-down of activity as an indirect consequence of political developments in the Middle East. The Nine have expressed their willingness to pursue the Dialogue and they hope that conditions will soon be favourable for a renewal of the Dialogue, which is a unique instrument for co-operation between the Community and the whole of the Arab region.

13. The Nine have continued to co-operate to the fullest extent possible with African countries in promoting their development in a spirit of partnership. They have followed events in Africa closely and they remain convinced that such problems can best be resolved peacefully and through African solutions. The Nine have been particularly concerned about the situation in Southern Africa and they have supported efforts to bring about, through peaceful means, the just solutions that are urgently required to the problems of the region.

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14. Indo-China remains an area of great concern to the Nine. Following the Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia and the subsequent Chinese in Vietnam, the Nine called for the independence, territorial integrity and self-determination of both Cambodia and Vietnam to be respected. In the Nine's view the establishment of peace and stability in South East Asia requires an independent Cambodia. In the Nine's view this means a Cambodia with a genuinely representative government, free from any foreign military presence, maintaining friendly relations with all the countries of the region and having the benefit of international assistance for reconstruction.
15. On a number of occasions the Nine have voiced their concern about the problem of the Indo-Chinese refugees and they called for immediate practical measures to deal with it. In adopting concerted positions at the United Nations meeting on South East Asian Refugees in July this year, the Nine stressed the right of people freely to leave and to return to their own countries. They also expressed their determination to contribute to continuing international efforts on behalf of the refugees.
16. The Nine have already taken steps to respond urgently to the desperate needs of the Kampuchean people in the face of widespread famine. At the United Nations Pledging Conference for Kampuchea in New York on 5 November, the Nine pledged a substantial contribution. They indicated that they intend to follow developments in Kampuchea with a view to further assisting in any way they can to relieve the situation.

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17. Relations with the European Parliament, now directly elected, continue to receive the close attention of the Nine in political co-operation. Through the medium of replies to Parliamentary questions, both oral and written, regular colloquies following Ministerial meetings, and the annual report on developments within political co-operation, the Parliament is kept abreast of all issues discussed by the Nine.

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III

An Agreement between the Member States of the European Communities concerning the application of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism is likely to be signed by the Nine during the current Presidency. Moreover, a group of senior officials is continuing its examination of a draft convention dealing with extradition for a broad range of criminal offences in the context of proposals for and "Espace Judiciaire Européen". The Ministers of Justice of the Nine met in April 1979 to consider these proposals and it is expected that they will meet at future dates on this subject. The group of senior officials, taking due account of the progress achieved, feels that the draft convention could be considered by Ministers at a meeting in Spring 1980. In addition Ministers of the Interior or Ministers with similar responsibilities met in Dublin in October as a continuation of their activities in examining practical measures of co-operation dealing with international terrorism.
