



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 January 1985

Prime Minister

I suggest that you

mention:

- the role of the Council

- the need for economy

- human rights

- Ireland (a warning not to encourage COE involvement)

- Terrorism

- Gibraltar (you will remember that he signed the

Lisbon Agreement).

Dear

Charles,

CDP 11/1

Visit to UK by Senor Oreja, Secretary-General of the  
Council of Europe: 15/16 January

Senor Oreja is to call on the Prime Minister at 1500 hours on 16 January for half an hour.

Senor Oreja was elected Secretary-General of the Council of Europe with UK support and took office at the end of November. His visit to London is one of a number of visits he is paying to capitals of member states to make himself known. I enclose the programme for the visit. It includes calls on the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary, Baroness Young, and Mr Scott at the Northern Ireland Office as well as lunch at the House of Commons with members of the British Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe. Sir Geoffrey will give a dinner in his honour.

Senor Oreja has made a good start in Strasbourg. As a politician of stature (and Spanish Foreign Minister from 1976-80) he is determined to give the Council of Europe a higher profile. He is conscious of the need for economy. We suggest that the Prime Minister's objectives should be to get across to Oreja that:

- (i) we take the Council of Europe's role as the representative organ of European democratic countries seriously; in origin it is a British conception, reflecting Churchill's vision; but
- (ii) we must also take seriously the need for efficiency and economy in its activities. What are Oreja's ideas for concentration and rationalisation of activities? One of our main aims is to avoid unnecessary duplication between the work done by the Council of Europe and the European Community and to ensure cost effectiveness by reducing the number of the Council's activities. In the recent discussion of the Council of Europe budget, we advocated zero growth in its programmes. A budget increase of 0.95% was eventually agreed. (We voted against.) I attach an illustrative

/note



note on some of the activities we favour and some we think unnecessary.

The Germans assumed the Presidency of the Council of Europe on 1 December and Herr Genscher has called a special restricted meeting of the Committee of Ministers for 29 January to discuss East/West relations, the Middle East and Latin America. The Foreign Secretary plans to attend. This unusual step by the Germans will give the Council of Europe a higher political profile.

#### Political Activity of the Council of Europe

Oreja will want to find a political role for the Council, which feels overshadowed by the European Communities. His priorities will include:

- (i) strengthening political cooperation within the Council of Europe (meetings of Foreign Ministers, Political Directors etc). This is particularly appreciated by the members such as Austria and Switzerland who are not members of the Ten;
- (ii) closer cooperation between the Council of Europe and the EC. We can welcome this provided it does not involve elaborate new bureaucratic mechanisms. The Council's Parliamentary Assembly has just set up a Commission of distinguished people (led by Colombo, British member Geoffrey Rippon) which will correspond to the two EC ad hoc Committees established at Fontainebleau;
- (iii) rationalisation of the Intergovernmental Work Programme. We strongly favour this.

#### Human Rights

There is to be a Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 19-20 March, which Mr Renton will attend. This will focus on the role of the European Court of Human Rights and the Commission, and on some of the current issues in the human rights field, particularly over the protection of the human personality (eg issues covered by the Warnock Report). We have a good contribution to make over these issues. We also wish to see the implementation of the 8th Protocol of the Convention which will considerably improve procedures. We shall have to resist firmly the tendency, attractive to some countries, to extend human rights to cover new areas (economic, social and cultural).

There has been some publicity recently for the activities of those who favour a Bill of Rights and the Incorporation of

/the



the European Convention of Human Rights into UK domestic law. An all-party group is being formed to press for Constitutional Reform, headed by Lord Scarman. Incorporation raises sensitive constitutional issues, and there are no present plans for legislation.

Professor Anton, who was elected the British member of the European Commission on Human Rights 9 months ago, has recently resigned from this position unexpectedly, finding the work more arduous than expected and concerned at some of the methods of the Commission. It is important that we should have a new member installed as soon as possible, and the Foreign Secretary is in urgent touch with the Home Secretary and the Law Officers over a suitable candidate.

### Ireland

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, prompted by some of its Irish members, has asked three of its committees to study the New Ireland Forum Report, and prepare reports for the Assembly. At a time of political delicacy in Northern Ireland, the Government was not keen to have Irish matters debated in the Council of Europe, and unsuccessful efforts were made in private by Sir Frederic Bennett to have the matter dropped. Ministers agreed that since there were no constitutional grounds for objecting to the Council of Europe's initiative, low-key attempts should be made to influence the work of the committees. Each committee has now appointed a rappporteur, and they are expected to visit the United Kingdom at the beginning of March. (Mr Scott is seeing Sr Oreja just before the Prime Minister's meeting.)

### Terrorism

The Council of Europe has a role to play in countering international terrorism and Oreja is very conscious of this. The Council's Conference of Ministers of Justice in Madrid (May 1984) issued a resolution on the subject and the Committee of Ministers then set up a Working Party. The Council offers us a forum in which to get across the concerns identified the Ten and the Summit Seven to a wider democratic audience.

### Turkey, Malta

There is currently a problem over the Turkish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. Due to objections by the Scandinavians and others the last meeting of the Council of Ministers was unable to agree to Turkey assuming the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, at this stage. Turkey has decided to boycott future meetings of the Ministerial Committee but not to boycott other meetings with the Council. We and the

/Germans



Germans have supported the Turkish position that, as member of the Council, they should be able to take up the Presidency as is their right.

There is also a problem over Malta. We share the general view that Malta's Foreign Interference Act contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights by attempting to restrict the activities of foreign nationals in Malta and Maltese nationals abroad.

Gibraltar

When he was Spanish Foreign Minister Senor Oreja was co-author, with Lord Carrington, of the Lisbon Statement of April 1980 concerning Gibraltar. He may therefore touch briefly on the prospects for the opening of the Gibraltar border and the start of negotiations which are due to take place on 5-February.

// As well as the programme for Senor Oreja's visit I enclose a personality note and a checklist of points to make.

*Yes*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER

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Meeting with Senor Oreja

You have already read the brief.

Subjects to raise are:-

- the role of the Council
- the need for economy
- human rights
- Ireland (a warning not to encourage ent  
involvement)
- terrorism
- Spain/Gibraltar.

*CDP*

15 January 1985



SOME EXAMPLES OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK

<u>Government Dept</u>	<u>Work of particular value</u>	<u>Work we consider of doubtful value</u>
DHSS	European Pharmacopoeia (protects the users of medicinal substances against error, fraud or incompetence in their manufacture).	Occasional symposia which have no practical follow-up, eg the 'World of Work'.
Home Office	Collaboration on the prevention of drug abuse through the Pompidou Group (Mr Mellors).	Rights of the Child programme which duplicates existing UN conventions.
DOE	Berne Convention on Wildlife and Natural Habitats (protection to animals and plants, particularly rare species).	European Campaign for the Countryside - ill conceived.
DES	(i) Modern languages projects are practical and productive. (ii) Service activities eg. teacher bursaries scheme and youth exchanges	(i) Occasional symposia unrelated to the rest of the COE programme. (ii) Steering Committee on Higher Education which duplicates work in other fora.



OREJA AGUIREE, MARCELINO

Secretary General to the Council of Europe since October 1984. Popular Coalition Deputy for Guipuzcoa. Former Foreign Minister (1976-80).

Born Madrid 1935. He studied in Germany, Britain and the Centre for Research of the Academy of International Law at The Hague before becoming Doctor of Law at the University of Madrid. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1959, and became Director of the Minister's Private Office in 1962. In 1971 he became Director for International Relations of the Bank of Spain. He was appointed Under-Secretary for Information and Tourism in December 1973 but resigned in 1974 and went into business. He was appointed Subsecretario (Under-Secretary) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from December 1975 to July 1976, and Foreign Minister in July 1976, a post he held until the Cabinet reshuffle of September 1980. He was appointed Royal Senator in July 1977, but in the March 1979 general election won his seat in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa. Government Representative in the Basque region, October 1980. His acceptance of this appointment showed great physical courage. President of Basque UCD until July 1982. Secretary for External Relations and Information in UCD Secretariat July-October 1982. Was one of six members of Congress Foreign Affairs Committee to visit the UK as guests of HMG in March 1983.

A pleasant but not a dominating personality. Not always able to carry his policies in Cabinet. Competent Minister of Foreign Affairs, but suffered from the lack of a power-base within the party. Generally open and easy to deal with, but inclined at times to adopt a legalistic approach.

Marcelino Oreja is an outstandingly good and charming man. Conspicuously friendly to this Embassy. A Christian patriot.

Married with two children. He speaks excellent English. His nice wife speaks reasonably good English.





## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE : A BRIEF OUTLINE

### WHAT IS IT?

1. The Council of Europe set up in 1949 is now a group of 21 European nations\* who subscribe to and are bound by the Council's statute. This describes the aim of the Council as 'to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage' and provides that 'every member of the Council of Europe must accept the principles of the rule of law and the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms'. It is organised to provide a framework for intergovernmental co-operation in the fields of culture, education, health, social welfare, crime prevention, harmonisation of legislation and youth affairs (defence is specifically excluded). It is now gaining additional significance as a forum which brings together the 10 EC countries with the other democratic states of Europe.

### WHERE IS IT?

2. The seat of the Council of Europe is at Strasbourg, but there are also offices in Paris and Brussels. The official languages are English and French, but German and Italian are used as working languages as well.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

3. The organs of the Council of Europe are :

/a)

\* Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal; Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

a) The Committee of Ministers, the executive organ, which meets twice a year at Ministerial level and twice monthly at deputy (Permanent Representative) level. As well as making use of this forum for political discussion, Ministers sometimes take decisions on matters of importance referred to them by their Deputies. Most decision-making, however, takes place at the level of Minister' Deputies, who decide on Recommendations submitted by the Parliamentary Assembly and on proposals made by Committees of Government Experts. Decisions take the form of Resolutions recommending common measures to Governments, of Conventions or Agreements binding on states which ratify them. The Committee's work programme is implemented by eleven Steering Committees and over ninety Committees of Experts.

b) The Parliamentary Assembly, the consultative organ, comprising 170 representatives from the Parliaments of the Member States. The Assembly normally meets three times a year to discuss, among other things, papers prepared by a number of specialist Parliamentary Committees and to pass Opinions, Resolutions or Recommendations. The Recommendations call on the Committee of Ministers to take action. The Assembly may discuss any subject other than those relating to defence

4. The Secretariat has the task of servicing the two organs of the Council of Europe, including the intergovernmental expert committees. The Secretary-General, though elected by the Assembly, is also responsible to the Committee of Ministers for the general administration of the organisation.

5. Part of the Council's work is carried out by institutions set up especially for the purpose, eg the European Commission of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation. Other institutions set up by the Council of Europe include the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities and periodic Conferences of specialist Ministers concerned, inter alia with Justice, Family Affairs and Labour. The principal vehicle used by the Council for advancing its objectives is the promotion of Conventions and Agreements which now number over 100.

/HUMAN

## HUMAN RIGHTS

6. To fulfil its responsibility for the preservation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms the Council of Europe maintains judicial machinery as provided for in the European Convention on Human Rights of 1951, to which all members have since subscribed. States may petition the European Commission of Human Rights if they believe a violation of the Convention has taken place. Individuals, after exhausting domestic legal remedies, may do so in the case of the fourteen states which have agreed the optional clause allowing individual petition. Cases may be referred by the Commission to the European Court of Human Rights, or, failing that, are submitted to the Committee of Ministers at Deputy level.

## THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORK PROGRAMME

7. In order to further intergovernmental cooperation in the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers has an Intergovernmental Work Programme covering 24 Sectors. Activities in each Sector are supervised by Steering Committees responsible to the Committee of Ministers (Annexe A). The Committee of Ministers refers questions to these Steering Committees seeking their opinion or requiring them to take action. Committees are made up of Senior Officials from member states.

8. Since subjects referred to Steering Committees are often of a highly technical nature, Steering Committees can ask the Committee of Ministers to set up Ad hoc Expert Committees. Expert Committees are made up of experts nominated by Governments; they are directly responsible to a Steering Committee but ultimately to the Committee of Ministers. The Committee of Ministers may also set up a Committee to look into a specific question. The Committee for Equality between women and men (CAHFM) is such a Committee (a separate note on this attached). In all there are over one hundred Committees of one sort or another which are helping to implement the Intergovernmental Work Programme.

9. The Committees are financed from the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget and are serviced by the Council and Secretariat.

/Provision

Provision is made for the attendance expenses of some Committee members to be borne by the Council, otherwise expenses are borne by national governments. Representation on committees is not obligatory and the United Kingdom does not participate in all committees.

ANNEXE ACOUNCIL OF EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEES

CDDH	Human Rights
CDSS	Social Security
CDSO	Social Affairs
CDMG	Intra European Migration
CDDE	Population
CDCC	Cultural Cooperation
CDDS	Development of Sport
CDSP	Public Health
CDAT	Regional Planning
CDUP	Urban Policy and Architectural Heritage
CDSN	Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
CDRM	Regional and Municipal Matters
CDCJ	Legal Cooperation
CDPC	Crime Problems
CDMM	Mass Media

AD HOC COMMITTEES WITH STEERING COMMITTEE STATUS

CAHCO	Protection of Consumers in the Socio-Economic Field
CCPU	Standing Conference on University Problems
CAHFM	Equality between Women and Men
CAHJE	Youth Questions

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY SENOR MARCELINO OREJA, SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 14-16 JANUARY 1985

Administrative Plan

(to be read in conjunction with programme attached)

Monday 14 January

Arrival

When the aircraft has landed, a representative of the British Airports Authority will accompany Mr C D Lush, United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, from the Hounslow Suite to the aircraft and escort the Secretary-General to the greeting party. There he will be welcomed by the following (in order):

Sir David Muirhead, Special Representative of the  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

His Excellency Don José Puig de la Bellasca,  
Spanish Ambassador

Miss Maureen Lawrence, Deputy Secretary,  
Government Hospitality

Colonel Rupert Wallis, Escort Officer,  
Government Hospitality

Transport

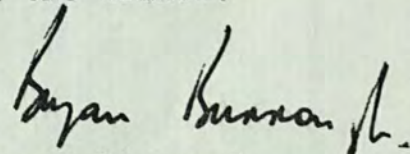
Cars are provided throughout the period of the official visit and are allocated as follows:

Car 1        Senor Oreja  
              Mr Lush  
              Colonel Wallis

Car 2        Mr Davies  
              Herr Furrer  
              Mr Hanning  
              Group Captain Thomson

Official Suite

All members of the official suite will accompany the Secretary-General throughout the programme. They are also invited to the luncheon reception and dinner on 15 January. Mr C D Lush will be in attendance throughout the programme; he is also invited to the reception and the dinner.



Bryan Burrough  
Protocol Department

11 January 1985

Distribution

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Heads of Mission Section POD

Government Hospitality Fund (15)

Red Crest

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Visit of  
His Excellency  
Señor Marcelino Oreja  
Secretary-General  
of the Council of Europe

14 to 16 JANUARY 1985



His Excellency Señor Marcelino Oreja, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, will be accompanied by:

Mr. Leonard Davies,  
Member of the Secretary-General's Cabinet

Herr Hans-Peter Furrer,  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers

Mr. Jack Hanning,  
Press and Information Division

In attendance:

Colonel Rupert Wallis - Government Hospitality

The visitors will stay at:

Grosvenor House Hotel

Park Lane, W.1

Programme

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MONDAY, 14 JANUARY

1815 hrs Arrive London Heathrow Airport by Flight AF 2647  
from Strasbourg  
Hounslow Suite

Met by the Special Representative of the Secretary  
of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
Sir David Muirhead

1835 Leave the Airport by car  
(approx)

1920 Arrive Grosvenor House Hotel  
(approx) Park Lane, S.W.1

Private engagement during the evening

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY

- 0915 hrs Leave the hotel
- 0925 Arrive Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Ambassadors' Entrance
- 0930 Talks with the Permanent Under Secretary of State  
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Head of  
the Diplomatic Service,  
Sir Antony Acland
- 1030 Talks with the Minister of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs,  
The Rt. Hon. Baroness Young
- 1200 Call on the Secretary of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs,  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, M.P.
- 1230 Leave Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- 1235 Arrive Speaker's House  
Speaker's Court
- 1240 Call on the Speaker of the House of Commons,  
The Rt. Hon. Bernard Weatherill, M.P.
- 1255 Leave Speaker's House
- 1300 Luncheon given by the United Kingdom delegation  
to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council  
of Europe  
Host: The Leader of the United Kingdom delegation,  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.  
Harcourt Room
- 1430 Call on the Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Rippon, M.P.
- 1500 Attend Prime Minister's Question Time  
Distinguished Strangers' Gallery

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY (cont'd)

1535 hrs Call on the  
93

1600 Call on the Leader of the Social Democratic Party,  
The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen, M.P.

1630 Call on the Liberal Transport and Northern Ireland  
Spokesman,  
Mr. Stephen Ross, M.P.

1700 Reception given by the United Kingdom delegation to the  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
Host: The Leader of the United Kingdom delegation,  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.  
Terrace Room

1815 Leave House of Commons

1830 Arrive at the hotel

1955 Leave the hotel

2005 Arrive 1 Carlton Gardens

2000 Dinner given by Her Majesty's Government  
for  
2015 Host: The Secretary of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs,  
The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, M.P.  
Dress: Lounge Suit

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY

0930 hrs Leave the hotel

1015 Arrive Tower Hamlets Sixth Form Centre  
155 East India Dock Road, E.14  
Met by the Headmistress,  
Mrs. D. Cleere

1115 Leave Tower Hamlets Sixth Form Centre

1155 Arrive at the hotel

1200 Meeting with Journalists

1355 Leave the hotel

1410 Arrive Northern Ireland Office  
Whitehall, S.W.1

1415 Call on the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,  
Northern Ireland Office,  
Mr. Nicholas Scott, M.P.

1455 Leave Northern Ireland Office

1500 Arrive 10 Downing Street  
Call on the Prime Minister,  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

1530 Leave 10 Downing Street

1540 Arrive Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1

1545 Call on the Secretary of State for the Home Department,  
The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, M.P.

1615 Call on the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for the Home Department,  
Mr. David Mellor, M.P.

1645 Leave the Home Office

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY (cont'd)

1000 hrs Arrive Spanish Embassy  
24 Belgrave Square, S.W.1

1715 Meeting with Spanish Journalists

1745 Leave Spanish Embassy

1845 Arrive London Heathrow Airport  
Hounslow Suite

1910 Board Flight AF 819 departing at 1930 hours for Paris

The Special Representative of the Secretary of  
State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
Sir David Muirhead,  
will bid farewell

## DIRECTORY

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Western European Department	01-233 3557
Ambassadors' Entrance	01-233 3160
London Heathrow Airport Hounslow Suite	01-745 4337
Grosvenor House Hotel Park Lane, W.1	01-499 6363
House of Commons	01-219 3000
1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1	01-214 6352
Tower Hamlets Sixth Form Centre 155 East India Dock Road, E.14	01-987 6597
Northern Ireland Office Whitehall, S.W.1	01-273 3000
10 Downing Street	01-233 3000
	and ask for 10 Downing Street
Home Office 50 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1	01-213 3000
Spanish Embassy 24 Belgrave Square, S.W.1	01-235 5555/6/7