

CCPC ①



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

CBT

The wording does indeed weaken the text considerably

28 November 1985

Dear Charles, Agree that the Foreign Secretary should accept it, while reserving our position on whether to accept the Agreement as a whole

Intergovernmental Conference

Your letter of 19 November recorded the Prime Minister's wish that a further serious effort should be made to secure some watering down of Article 1 of the Draft Treaty on Political Cooperation.

We put the arguments to our partners in the Intergovernmental Conference at successive Ministerial meetings on 19 and 26 November, drawing on the helpful suggestions in your letter. The Prime Minister of course also raised the subject with M. Santer on 20 November. The result, on 26 November, was that the Presidency accepted (and no one contested) an Italian suggestion that the words "to seek" should be inserted, so that the Article would now read:

Amend mt

"The High Contracting Parties, Members of the European Community, set as their objective to seek the joint formulation and implementation of a European foreign policy."

The Foreign Secretary considers this new draft weakens the effect of the article even more than your own suggestions, and that there would therefore be advantage in accepting it quickly before other member states try to regain lost ground. Unless the Prime Minister sees objection, he therefore proposes to accept this latest text at the Foreign Ministers' "conclave" this weekend before the European Council, on the understanding that the rest of the text is acceptable.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

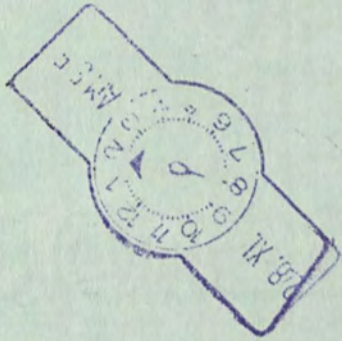
(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 November 1985

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 28 November about the wording of Article 1 of the Draft Treaty on Political Co-operation.

I agree that the Italian suggestion for the wording of this Article, which makes clear that the aim of joint formulation and implementation of a European foreign policy is distant and to be sought on a best endeavours basis, is helpful. While I think the Prime Minister would have no objection to the Foreign Secretary accepting the wording this weekend, she would want it to be on the basis that our position on whether to accept the agreement as a whole was reserved until we were able to judge the final shape of the overall package at Luxembourg.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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