



SR

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 April 1992

GREECE AND THE WEU

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the Greek Prime Minister about the WEU.

I should be grateful for advice and, as necessary, a draft reply from the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence).

(J. S. WALL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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CC PC

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The Ambassador

Greek Embassy
London

2 April, 1992

No.F.3741

Dear Prime Minister,

I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter sent by telex which is addressed to you by Mr. Constantin Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece.

Yours sincerely,

George D. Papoulias

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The Rt.Hon. John Major, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.I.

"Athens, March 31, 1992
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.S.B.192....

SUBJECT
MASTER
OPS
FILED ON:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

In their declaration issued on the occasion of the European Council Meeting on 9 and 10 December 1991 at Maastricht, the member states of the Western European Union invited member states of the European Union to accede to the WEU on conditions to be agreed, in accordance with Article XI of the modified Brussels Treaty, before 31 December 1992.

By letter of 17 December 1991, the Greek Government recalled that Greece had already communicated officially to the Council of Ministers of the WEU that she was prepared to accede and stood ready to engage in the appropriate procedures to this end. My Government looks forward to these procedures starting at the earliest possible date with a view to an accession within the agreed time-frame.

I am given to understand that discussions among the Nine have now reached the stage where a political declaration is being elaborated on the principles which are to govern relations between the member states of the enlarged WEU and the member states of the Atlantic Alliance.

Contacts between our countries at the level of both Foreign Ministers and officials, have no doubt made you aware of the special importance my country attributes to this particular aspect. I myself have given you at Maastricht a full account of Greece's position on the subject, especially regarding arrangements which could dilute the present security provisions of the Brussels Treaty or alter the very concept of the WEU as the defence component of the European Union.

Before final decisions are reached by the Nine, I would like to ask you to ensure that due account is taken of Greek concerns. In the light of my country's wish to accede to the WEU and be fully associated with the developments concerning European integration, it would indeed be awkward if some inadequate wording were to give rise to complications when the moment will come for ratification by my country of the relevant Agreement along with the Treaty on European Union.

It is my earnest hope that you will see fit to stress to your Foreign Minister the need for a solution which will be satisfactory for us all.

Sincerely yours,

Constantin Mitsotakis"