

cc PC



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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21 April 1992

*of when raised by Ameliaske
raised
Dear Steph, for
Sent*

OK

Greece/WEU

copy attached

I enclose a draft telegram containing a reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Mitsotakis's letter to him of 31 March about Greek accession to the WEU. We are ready to despatch this if the Prime Minister is content. The Foreign Secretary will see Mitsotakis on 23 April in Athens.

With your agreement, Sir David Miers spoke to Mitsotakis's office on 9 April (Athens telno 155, enclosed) to explain that the Prime Minister's reply would be delayed because of the General Election. He deliberately avoided going into substance on the point of concern to Greece - the neutralisation of Article V of the Brussels Treaty to maintain equality of security between Greece and Turkey - since WEU Ministers have not yet approved a neutralisation formula, (and we see no advantage in giving the Greeks a chance to pick holes in advance.) Nor did he take up the implied threat to link Article V to ratification of the Union Treaty, which we believe Mr Mitsotakis would have difficulty following through. The suggested reply follows the same course, and is drafted with the possibility of its being leaked (about which David Miers has warned) in mind.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (MOD).

S L Gass
(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq CMG LVO
10 Downing Street

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TO IMMEDIATE ATHENS

TELNO

OF Z APR 92

INFO IMMEDIATE ANKARA

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, ROME, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, LISBON

INFO ROUTINE MADRID, LUXEMBOURG, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS

YOUR TELNO 155 (NOT TO ALL): GREECE/WEU

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Mitsotakis. There will be no signed original.

BEGINS

Thank you for your letter of 31 March about Greek accession to the WEU. Please forgive me for not replying earlier. I know that David Miers has has in the meantime spoken to your officials.

Like you, I look forward to Greek accession to the WEU within the timeframe discussed at Maastricht. The WEU is working hard, with our full support, to agree enlargement proposals which will offer you full membership on the same basis as existing members, and at the same time give a clear and separate status as associate members to other European members of the Atlantic Alliance who are not part of the European Community. We are very much aware of the Greek positions on both the Brussels Treaty and the idea that the

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WEU is the defence component of the Union. In the discussions now taking place we are taking full account of Greek concerns, and are working for the best possible package.

It will be for the candidate countries to make their own decisions on whether to accept membership of, or association with, the WEU on the basis which we hope shortly to put forward. But I hope very much that all will find the WEU's proposals acceptable.

ENDS

HURD

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MAIN

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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