



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

5 May 1992

*Dear Sir,*

GREECE/WEU

Thank you for your letter of 29 April enclosing a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Mr. Mitsotakis.

The Prime Minister has agreed the message to Mr. Mitsotakis and has signed the enclosed letter. I should be grateful if you could arrange for it to be delivered. You will need to make consequential amendments to your draft telegram.

*J. S. Wall*

J. S. WALL

S.L. Gass, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 April 1992

*Dear Stefan,*

Greece/WEU

The Foreign Secretary met Mr Mitsotakis on 23 April. Mitsotakis put again many of the points in his letter to the Prime Minister of 31 March. He also proposed alternative texts for the passage on WEU enlargement which neutralises Article V in respect of disputes between allies. (Athens telnos 178 and 179 enclosed).

Both of the Greek drafting proposals are unattractive. The first would not prevent Greece from invoking Article V in a dispute with Turkey. The second is too open to interpretation to be reliable. Read literally it appears to mean that Article V would not be invoked in a way which violated the principles of the UN etc and is a tautology. If, instead, it is intended to mean that Article V would not be invoked except in response to a violation of UN principles by another ally, it would open up scope for the Greeks to argue that Turkey had violated its international obligations in some way. Such claims would be difficult to refute conclusively. Greek officials did not really seek to hide the fact that they wished to use Greek membership to strengthen their defence against Turkey; in other words they see enlargement of the WEU in just the context which we wish to avoid.

It would be undesirable for security guarantees binding the UK to be open to ambiguity and interpretation. We therefore propose to stick to the compromise on Article V already agreed among WEU members. The German Presidency strongly favour this.

We have incorporated a reference to the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Mitsotakis into the draft message to Mitsotakis from the Prime Minister (originally enclosed with my letter of 21 April), but in other respects it does not seem necessary to change it.

*Downes, S. L. Gass*

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq  
10 Downing Street

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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 April 1992

*Dear Stefan,*

*Lawrence  
025 07211  
2.14*

Greece/WEU

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

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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.

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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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HE Mr Constantin

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TO IMMEDIATE ATHENS

TELNO

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INFO IMMEDIATE ANKARA

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

INFO ROUTINE MADRID, LUXEMBOURG, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS

*M. Tsirakos letter*  
*PH*

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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