



Prime Minister

(1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree that we should not oppose
attendance by Greece as an observer
at the European Council in December if
this is proposed?

23 October 1980

Agreed
not

Dear Mr Innes,

Pauls 23/X

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: GREEK ATTENDANCE AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

It has already been agreed that Greece should attend normal meetings of the Council of Ministers as an observer. The Greeks will also take part in Political Cooperation meetings after the December European Council.

Agreement on Greek participation in these meetings has so far not specifically included the European Council itself. It is possible that the matter will be raised at the Informal Foreign Ministers' meeting this weekend at which the preparation of the European Council is to be discussed. We would therefore be grateful for the Prime Minister's opinion so that we can give our view without hesitation.

There is no clear precedent. The European Council did not exist when we entered the Community, but we were invited (with the Danes and the Irish) to attend the European Summit held in Paris in October 1972. We do not yet have the complete list of topics that will be discussed at the next European Council, but it is difficult to think of anything in which we would not want the Greeks to participate, particularly only a month before they join. They identify us as being opposed to the Commission's proposals for their share of the Regional Development Fund, and there is a case for us being helpful in other fields.

/The

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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The Lord Privy Seal's recommendation is, therefore, that we should not take any initiative, but that we should be prepared to agree to Greek attendance as an observer at the European Council in Luxembourg on 1/2 December.

*Yours ever
S J Gomersall.*

S J Gomersall

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24 October 1980

European Community: Greek attendance
at the European Council

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 23 October on this subject and has approved the course of action recommended by the Lord Privy Seal.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

S.J. Gomersall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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