

No. 47/61

MEMORANDUM
(Doorslag)

351.88/4):336
EEG LEUR alg

Van: Mr. J. M. A. H. Luns

GEHEIM

Aan: S

cc Minister-President
Minister van E.Z.
DGES
DNW

Una. 31/VII

8

./.

Hedenmiddag bezocht mij de Britse Ambassadeur en overhandigde mij de hiernevensgaande brief d.d. heden van de Britse Minister-President, waarin de Heer Macmillan mij mededeling doet, dat de Britse Regering op 31 dezer bekend zal maken dat zij voornemens is aansluiting te zoeken tot de EEG.

Sir Andrew Noble zeide mij dat deze mededeling geheim dient te blijven tot 31 juli a.s. en voorts dat de Britse Regering het zeer op prijs zou stellen indien bij het a.s. WEU-overleg der Ministers van Buitenlandse Zaken op 1 augustus in Parijs ik positief op het dan bekend geworden Britse voornemen zal willen reageren. Ik heb zulks toegezegd en heb vervolgens mijn voldoening uitgesproken over het Britse besluit. Ik verzocht de Britse Ambassadeur aan zijn Minister-President over te brengen dat de Nederlandse Regering het hare zal doen om de toetreding ~~tot~~^{van} het Verenigd Koninkrijk tot de EEG te vergemakkelijken. De Ambassadeur zei dat deze toezegging door zijn Regering ongetwijfeld op hoge prijs zal worden gesteld.

Den Haag, 28 juli 1961
(Cfm dictaat Minister)

C O P Y

28th July, 1961

Dear Foreign Minister,

As you know, we have been seeking ways by which Britain could establish a closer relationship with the E.E.C. The exploratory talks have served their purpose and we have now reached the stage where further progress cannot be made unless we enter into formal negotiations. We have also, as you know, consulted the Commonwealth Governments and the other members of the European Free Trade Association. Many and great difficulties remain to be resolved. Nevertheless, after long and earnest consideration, Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that it would be right for Britain to apply to join the E.E.C. preparatory to negotiations, as provided for in Article 237 of the Treaty of Rome, with a view to securing satisfactory arrangements to meet the special needs of the United Kingdom, of the Commonwealth and of E.F.T.A. I shall be making an announcement to this effect in the House of Commons on July 31.

The urgent need to strengthen the unity of the West is in the minds of us all. This has been underlined by the events of the last few weeks and has been very much in our minds in reaching the decision which we have now taken. As you will know, several Commonwealth Governments - old and new - have expressed anxiety about the possible consequences which may result from negotiations between Britain and the E.E.C. We must be mindful of these anxieties and of our obligations to our partners in E.F.T.A.; but we would like to think that we may expect from the members of the Community understanding and help in finding common ground which will enable us jointly to bring this great enterprise to a successful conclusion. We for our part will spare no efforts. We have been grateful for your consistent sympathy and support in the past and I know that I can count on your active cooperation in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

HAROLD MACMILLAN