

McQUARRIE, D.P.

19th December, 1980

Thank you so much for your letter of 17th December, with which you enclosed a copy of the Press Release which you issued on the same day.

I was very glad to have had an opportunity of meeting members of the Conservative European Reform Group on Monday.

Thank you, too, for all your support in the House.

Ian Gow

Albert McQuarrie, Esq., M.P.



From: ALBERT McQUARRIE, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th December, 1980.

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
10, Downing Street,  
London. S.W.1.

*Dear Prime Minister,*

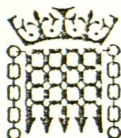
I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hearing and hospitality which you gave to the members of the European Reform Group on Monday evening. I trust that you are assured that our aims are for the good of Britain and are in no way directed at causing you any embarrassment. Most of us in the Group are totally behind you in the matter of the Common Market and you can count on that support at all times.

I enclose a copy of the News Release which I sent to my Constituency on the formation of the Group.

*Yours ever,  
Albert.*



From: ALBERT McQUARRIE, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

NEWS RELEASE.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.  
27th November, 1980.

" A number of Constituents have been asking me why I joined the new Conservative European Reform Group in the House of Commons.

The reason is simple. Because I am far from happy about the effect of membership of the Common Market on Britain and its people, and because I want to play a part in an organisation committed to achieving the changes which will ensure a better deal for Britain.

There's a great deal of propaganda put forward about the EEC from both sides, but for me it's the facts which count.

The cost of the annual subscriptions to the EEC from Britain have been horrendous. Since we joined in 1973, we've had to pay in a total of £2600,000,000 more into EEC coffers than we've received. This works out at over £1,000,000 every single day - Saturdays and Sundays included. Even after the Prime Minister's renegotiation of the contributions - in which she achieved a great deal - we're still committed to paying in more than £1,000,000 per day. It's just not fair when other Member States actually get paid for being members!

Nor do I like the Common Market food policy. By forcing up prices so high, production from inefficient farms on the continent soars and we have to pay a fortune, not just to keep them in business, but also to dispose of massive surpluses at knock down prices - many of them to the Soviet Union and other East European powers. There's been talk for years about "reforming" the CAP, but it's almost impossible to arrive at a formula which will suit everyone. That's why our Group will be pressing for the CAP to be handed back so that each country can run its own common agricultural policy. Britain has the most efficient agriculture in Europe and we must continue to support it. But there's no justification for our having to support Continental farming as well. There's no way in which I, as your M.P., will support the mass destruction of long standing industries, such as agriculture, fishing and food processing at home, and stand by without action at the sale of butter at 15p per half pound to Russia, which should be made available to our elderly persons and institutions.

It's been a bad deal for us on trade. Supporters of the EEC claim that things are improving, but I'm afraid that this is largely because we're now exporting so much oil to Europe. If we look at the figures for manufactured goods - produced in factories - we see that our deficit in trade with Europe is going up and up. Three years ago it was a £1,000 million. Last year it was £2,000 millions.



And such a huge trade deficit means a lot of jobs lost to Britain.

Nor are we allowed to sort out unfair trading practices and dumping as we used to do. If jobs at home were threatened by foreigners dumping subsidised goods on our markets, we used to be able to invoke anti-dumping laws, incorporated in the Treaty of Rome. Now we have to approach the Commission in Brussels to see if they'll invoke Europe's wide anti-dumping measures and it's difficult to get speedy and effective action there.

Everyone has ideas about EEC reform, but the formation of the new Group took place because M.P.s. like myself thought that it would help if a programme of reform could be agreed upon. The programme is there and now 42 Tory M.P.s. have signed it. We'll work together to try and get our ideas adopted.

The changes we propose are fourfold:-

- (1) To restore the Common Agriculture Policy, making to the U.K. Government.
- (2) To restore the right of nations to invoke anti-dumping measures;
- (3) A system of EEC membership fees which ensures that everyone pays a fair amount.
- (4) Restoration to Parliament of national rights - for example, the right of Britain to refuse to export subsidised food mountains to Russia from our own supplies.

It's a sensible package and would help Britain in its present crisis.

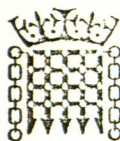
The Group is not in any sense Anti-European, nor am I, as I am totally committed to the Prime Minister's views on the EEC. We want to work together with the countries of the EEC on issues where our interests are in common. The Soviet threat makes it all the more important that we should work together on defence and foreign affairs, and many other issues of common interest.

I honestly believe that we might work together better on such vital issues if the nations of the EEC weren't arguing all the time about issues like the size of food mountains.

I believe that in joining this Group and taking an active part in its activities, I am representing the best interests of my constituents. Certainly I find that at most meetings with constituents there's a deep unhappiness about how the EEC is going. However, if you have any thoughts on the matter, please do write to me at the House of Commons, London, S.W.1A 0AA., - I'd be glad to hear what you think, as your view on these matters is important to me as your Member of Parliament."



From: ALBERT McQUARRIE, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

NOTE FOR EDITORS.

- (1) Mr. Albert McQuarrie's Office Number at the House of Commons is: 01 - 219 - 4215.
- (2) His Secretary, Mrs. Nina Robertson, is on: 01 - 219 - 5486.
- (3) Mr. McQuarrie's Constituency House Number is: 08883 - 441. His London House Number is: 01 - 582 - 4345.
- (4) The Prime Minister will be meeting the Group at No. 10, Downing Street, on Monday 15th December, 1980.
- (5) The Interim Chairman is, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Conservative Member of Parliament for Nantwich.