

Telegram from Duncan Sandys on the negotiations for British accession to the European Communities (19 July 1962)


Caption: On 19 July 1962, as negotiations are held for British accession to the Common Market, Duncan Sandys, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, informs the Commonwealth countries about the discussions on future relations between the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the European Communities.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

24/5/2/4 ✓
31 JUL 1962



TO ANTIGUA, BARBADOS, BRITISH GUIANA, BRITISH HONDURAS, DOMINICA, FIJI, THE GAMBIA, GRENADA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, MONTserrat, ST. KITTS ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT, TONGA, VIRGIN ISLANDS, WESTERN PACIFIC, ZANZIBAR

BY AIRMAIL TO:-

ADEN, BAHAMAS, BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND, SWAZILAND, BERMUDA, BRUNEI, FALKLAND ISLANDS, GIBRALTAR, HONG KONG, MALTA, NORTH BORNEO, ST. HELENA, SARAWAK, SEYCHELLES, SINGAPORE, BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES, SOUTH AFRICA (BBS).

Code

EGD 442/448/010

Sent 19th July, 1962. 20.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

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UNNUMBERED CIRCULAR (1) OF 19th July, 1962.

Common Market Negotiations.

My immediately following telegram contains the substance of a report from Brussels of the negotiations on association for British dependent territories. You may find it helpful to have the following commentary in explanation of these proposals and the general background.

These proposals have been agreed between officials of H.M.G. and of the Governments of the Six for submission to a negotiating session of Ministers of all seven Governments in Brussels later this month. If the Ministerial meeting goes as we hope and they are then approved, they will form part of the arrangements negotiated for Britain's possible accession to the Treaty of Rome, which will form the basis on which H.M.G. will consider after the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers opening 10th September, whether or not to accede to the Treaty.

If these terms for association are approved by Ministers and Britain decides to accede to the Treaty, the position will then be as follows. The fact that association is recognised as being "the most satisfactory solution" for the territories listed in Group II (a) (and we hope later for one or two other territories) does not mean that these territories will automatically be associated. It means that H.M.G. will be in a position, after appropriate consultation with the territories concerned in each case, to notify that any or all of these territories should be added to the list of dependent territories enjoying associated status under the Treaty.

To British Guiana and Kenya only:

Whilst for territories which are still constitutionally dependent, the decision whether or not to include them in the list of dependent territories submitted for association must formally rest with H.M.G. in the U.K., this decision in the case of a territory such as British Guiana/Kenya will naturally not be taken except after the fullest consultation with British Guiana/Kenya Government.

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To Kenya only:-

I recognise that there are questions concerning Kenya's relationship with Uganda and Tanganyika which are still unresolved, but I nevertheless hope that you will be able to express a view on behalf of the Kenya Government on the basis of this telegram, subject of course to any necessary reservations in the light of further developments in East Africa.

To all:-

For these territories in the case of which the ultimate decision may be against seeking association, an attempt will be made to negotiate alternative arrangements to safeguard their interests as far as possible. It cannot however be expected that in these circumstances any such alternative arrangements will be as favourable from the economic point of view as association.

It will I hope be clear from the above that no final decision whether or not any territory is to seek association will be called for at the earliest until some time after the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting opening 10th September. In any case, the terms for association have not yet been worked out in detail though circular savingsgrams you will already have received have given a general idea of the terms now under consideration. My present understanding is that, except for territories which because of their special circumstances are to be dealt with on a different basis, all the dependent territories for whom association is agreed to be suitable are likely to wish, if Britain herself joins the European Community, to be included in the list of associated dependent territories in accordance with the plans described in my immediately following telegram. It will be clear from what I have said above that no final decision is necessary or indeed possible at this stage: but if thinking in the Government of your territory is now moving in the direction of a decision not (repeat not) to seek association, I shall be grateful to be informed as soon as possible.

I am in separate communication with the Governments of the territories for whom special provisions are indicated.

European Economic "A" Distribution

Copy sent to:-

Sir W. Gorell Barnes,
CODEL,
Brussels.

(Cost of telegram £253 1s 8d.)

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