



# BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES

POLICY AND REFERENCE DIVISION

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May 15, 1975

POLICY STATEMENTS

36/75. EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP: REASONS FOR VOTING YES

Mr. James Callaghan, Secretary of State  
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
to the National Union of Mineworkers in  
Blackpool on May 15, 1975:

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The following is an extract from a speech by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. James Callaghan, to the National Union of Mineworkers in Blackpool on May 15, 1975:

"This is my first speech in the country during the referendum campaign. I would like to summarize my reasons for voting 'yes', after a long period of weighing up the issues. The decision is one for everyone to make up their own minds about -- whether we should be in or out. It is a matter of judgment. That is why the argument is so fierce and agreement so difficult. Anyway, here is my judgment on the issues and I hope that it will help others to make up their minds.

"First, as a result of 12 months of tough renegotiations we have won a better deal for Britain:

- Britain will pay less into the Budget.
- We have changed the agricultural system on food prices to the advantage of the ordinary family.
- We have made sure that New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries can send us large quantities of food.
- We have safeguarded the future jobs in the regions. We can adopt all our traditional measures to overcome unemployment

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- and the British Government's powers in the Council of Ministers means that we have a decisive voice in the future shape and direction of all the Community's major policies.

"So, the renegotiation was worthwhile and its successful conclusion has put an end to a lot of fears. In my view this is why a number of my Cabinet colleagues, including myself, were doubtful a year ago but have watched the development of our renegotiations and have now come out in favor of voting 'yes'. This is the Labour Government's recommendation.

2. "Next, it is a different world outside than it used to be. The oil price rises of 18 months ago mean that it will never be the same again. The developing countries of the world have demanded a new economic order. The Commonwealth countries have sought and secured new markets for their produce. They still want to trade with us, but they expect much higher prices than we used to pay.
3. "As members of the Common Market we are part of the world's largest trading group. Bigger even than the USA or the USSR. Size is not everything, but it does give us a strong bargaining position.
4. "In this new world our food supplies are more secure inside the Community -- for we are living in a world whose hungry millions will grow quite as fast as our capacity to feed them.
5. "The general level of prices will be just as high if we come out of the Market. There is no escape route for Britain except by making ourselves more efficient.
6. "If we are more efficient -- but only if -- then the large Common Market will mean greater job security in the years ahead.
7. "The common rules which some people find so irksome have enabled France and Germany to bury the hatchet after centuries of conflict and the loss of millions of lives. We could not stand out of those conflicts in the past. Britain's presence in the Community now gives added stability and greater assurance of peace for our children.
8. "Finally, if we left now we would be bucking the trend. Other countries are doing the opposite. Greece would like to join and other European countries will follow suit. Canada has asked for a contractual arrangement. The Arab states and the developing countries are all seeking closer ties and association.

"Regional arrangements between neighboring groups of countries have grown up in Africa, the Caribbean, South America, Asia, the Middle East -- not to mention the Warsaw Pact and COMECON countries of Eastern Europe. They have done so because no single nation can solve its problems on its own in the modern world. We cannot contract out either.

"So there are my 8 reasons, in a nutshell, why I shall be voting yes on June 5."

(Prev. Ref. 31/75)

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