

**SUMMER MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL (WPAC)
TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2003 – WISTON HOUSE**

Present:

Wilton Park Academic Council:

Lady Suzanne Warner (Chair)	Deputy Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission
Sir Rodric Braithwaite	Chairman, Russian Programme, Centre for European Reform
Dr David Bryer	Senior Adviser, Henri Dunant Centre For Humanitarian Dialogue
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale	Labour Party parliamentary representative
Mr Keith Dobson	Secretary-General, Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society
Mr Janusz Heath	Managing Director and Head of Central and Eastern European Private Equity, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Capital
Dr Farhan Nizami	Director, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
Sir Michael Quinlan	Former Director, The Ditchley Foundation
Lord Skidelsky	Professor of Political Economy, Warwick University
Dame Veronica Sutherland	President, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge
Mr Michael Walsh	Head of Research, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation
Sir Anthony Young	Trade Union Liaison Officer, Ethical Trading Initiative

FCO:

Mr Richard Stagg	Director of Information
Mr Peter Wilson	Directorate for Strategy and Innovation
Mr Greg House	Public Diplomacy Policy Department

Wilton Park:

Mr Colin Jennings	Chief Executive
Dr Richard Latter	Director

Mr Nick Hopkinson	Deputy Director
Ms Robin Hart	Associate Director
Mr Chris Langdon	Associate Director
Dr Roger Williamson	Associate Director
Ms Isobelle Jaques	Associate Director
Mr David Pinder	Associate Director
Ms Adela Gooch	Associate Director
Ms Jane Rawbone	PA/Mr Jennings – Minutes

ACTION POINTS

1. PDPD: To continue to explore the case for the minutes to be made public documents under the Public Records Act. (para 3)
2. Wilton Park: Alan Williams of the British-American Parliamentary Group to be approached about Transatlantic Relations conference. (para 6)
3. Wilton Park: To look for possible funding for participants from the Middle East from charitable foundations in that area. David Green should also be consulted about the prospects for such support from the British Council. (para 6)
4. Wilton Park: On participation by the business community, to approach the London and Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, CBI and Sir Stephen Brown at BTI. (para 6)
5. Secretariat: To draft Council 2003 Annual Report and ensure it is an agenda item for future summer meetings.
6. PDPD: To take forward under the Nolan rules appointment of a new Chair. (para 13)
7. Secretariat: To notify all members of the date of the December meeting soon.

RECORD

Apologies:

1. Apologies received from Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Sir Patrick Cormack, Mr Jim Dougal, Mr Nik Gowing, Dr Heather Grabbe, Mr David Green, Mr David Heath, Ms Mary Jo Jacobi and Professor Anand Menon. Warm thanks given to Michael Walsh, who was at his last meeting, for his contribution to WPAC over past 9 years.

Item 1: Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

Item 2: Matters Arising

3. Action taken on all action points raised at last meeting. Recorded that: (1) Peter Wilson is representative from DSI, FCO; (4) Public Records Act still being looked at; (5) the selection of conference themes had a big influence on the number of participants from the Middle East, but holding first Wilton Park conference in the Middle East region (Alexandria) next year should help; (7) Wilton Park will mail 9,000 previous participants (from last 10 years) inviting them to join newly formed Wilton Park International Association and to exchange addresses with their permission; and (9) Framework Document agreed in February 2003. Copy provided to members at the meeting.

Item 3: FCO Review of Conference Work

4. FCO had initiated an in-house review of all their conference facilities to ensure they had right mixture – it was not simply a question of saving money. Under review were Lancaster House, Wilton Park, FCO's own Fine Rooms, 1 Carlton Gardens and Chevening. Person originally appointed to review Wilton Park had been diverted to work on Iraq and then transferred elsewhere before he had completed the review. Not yet replaced. There was the complication of a separate Review taking place involving Lancaster House. One member commented that the conference work review seemed to involve comparing apples and oranges. Mr Stagg will update WPAC at winter meeting.

Item 4: Chief Executive's Report

5. The Council congratulated the Chief Executive on Wilton Park's excellent performance as set out in this year's Report.

6. The Chief Executive said there had been a 5% increase in number of participants who completed the questionnaires following previous discussion by the Council. Highlights of the past six months were that:

- The conference held at the end of March, on reform in the Arab world, had had a good turn-out despite the Iraq conflict.
- For the first time ever, almost 40% of running costs had been funded from non-British sources.
- Richard Mayne's history of Wilton Park was published in March.
- The Wilton Park International Association launch was imminent.
- The Appeal by The Sir Heinz Koeppler Trust (on which Sir Anthony Young was WPAC representative), was aiming to raise at least £2M to

- fund more participants from developing countries, it had attracted eminent Patrons, and Sir Michael Bett had agreed to take the Chair.
- The first two conferences outside Europe would be held later this year in Japan and Brazil.
 - Adela Gooch had joined Wilton Park as a new Associate Director in January.

In answer to various questions the Chief Executive said that:

- Five conferences were held overseas in each of the past two Financial Years, more than in the past. These were usually held at invitation of the government concerned resulting from previous attendance at Wilton Park. Each conference held overseas usually needed a couple of years' lead time. In-country costs have to be met by host country. There would be a conference in Turkey next year on EU enlargement, but like others it would be a Wilton Park-run event.
- A conference that had been contemplated in Washington this year for US and European politicians was cancelled because of difficulty of guaranteeing top level participation from UK. It was suggested that Alan Williams of the British-American Parliamentary Group be approached about such links.
- A conference on the Transatlantic Relationship would be taking place later this year. Hoped to attract participation from EU countries as well as from the UK and US.
- Over 50 participants from the Middle East (plus 17 from Israel) had attended conferences in the last FY. Lack of funding was the main reason that more did not attend. It was suggested that the Chief Executive should look to charitable foundations in the Middle East for help and perhaps to hold a conference there. There were also a number of people in the region who may be willing to help train young people eg as journalists. David Green should be consulted in parallel about potential linkages with British Council activities in the region.
- On participation in conferences by business community (at present less than 10%), some progress been made on Corporate Membership. Main advantage gained by businesses from attending Wilton Park were networking opportunities. Chief Executive agreed to approach London and Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, the CBI and Sir Stephen Brown at BTI on boosting business involvement.

Item 5: FCO Global Overview

7. Mr Wilson from the FCO's Directorate for Strategy and Innovation (DSI) explained that DSI, which has now existed for a year, covers work previously done by Planners, Change Management Unit, and internal communications. Its main project was to define what the FCO's main priorities should be over the next 5-10 years and what change are needed to achieve them. Main priorities were emerging as:

- A world more safe from new threats: global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction
- Protection of the UK from other threats, in particular trafficking of drugs and people and other forms of international crime
- A stable international system based on the rule of law and multinational co-operation
- The promotion of UK economic interests in an open and expanding global economy
- Democracy, good governance and sustainable development
- Security of UK and global energy supplies
- A secure neighbourhood for the EU

8. The FCO relationships would be considered in the light of these priorities. In the course of this work, it was also giving serious thought to how we should improve our links with emerging powers, notably China, India, Russia and Japan.

9. Much discussion on these points, which were closely inter-related. Some members thought that the FCO's priority on terrorism and WMD should not overshadow the other priorities, and could be counterproductive. In addition to US capabilities, there were important European police and other assets in this field. They also thought there were some omissions from the list eg increasing our influence within the EU; the Commonwealth; the relationship between security and globalisation; how to improve relations with the Muslim world; movement of people and welfare policy; UK's relationship with Brazil.

10. In response it was argued that some of these issues would be dealt with in the context of how the FCO delivered its main priorities, but a new security environment now existed as illustrated by 9/11. It was, of course, vital to create a more constructive relationship with the Arab world if we were to create a better security environment. The EU was a key tool for pursuing FCO priorities, even though on some of them its ability to deliver needed improvement. This choice of priorities should have consequences for the allocation of resources within the FCO, as well as providing those in the organisation with a clear sense of direction.

Item 6: Draft Calendar for 2004

11. See Annex A.

Item 7: AOB

12. The Chair said that the Council's Annual Report was a formal requirement and should always be on summer meeting agendas. On this occasion it would be considered at the December meeting if not dealt with by post beforehand.

13. The Chair said that the December meeting would be her last. A replacement would be appointed under the Nolan rules.

Item 8: Date of Next Meeting

14. The Chair agreed to look at a date during the week beginning 8 December. Members to be advised of date as soon as possible. The meeting would take place at the FCO.

Jane Rawbone
Tel: (01903) 817766
Fax: (01903) 879647
Jane.Rawbone@wiltonpark.org.uk

25 June 2003

Distribution:

All Council members
All FCO staff present
All Wilton Park staff present

MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL, 10 JUNE 2003

DRAFT CALENDAR FOR 2004

The following suggestions were made on next year's draft calendar:

The European Union

Under this section it was suggested that an Anglo-Spanish conference be held (in light of the relationship which has developed between the two countries in recent years. The Spanish Treasury might support it. How does this relationship impact upon the EU?

(It was pointed out that the Tertulias meetings took place regularly and British Embassy and British Council were involved.) There would also be a 2 day seminar at Wilton Park in July on "UK-Espana: Looking to the Future Europe: Perceptions, Reality, the Future". Future possibilities might develop from that.

Also, consideration should be given to a conference on European defence procurement, on which difficult questions would soon arise on preserving European manufacturing capability or going for the cheapest option.

Key priorities for 2005: Looking towards the UK Presidency of the EU and of the G8

The proposed timing of this conference (2nd half of 2004) would be too late to be of use, should be early in the year. It was suggested that this conference should focus purely on the EU Presidency.

Immigration Into Europe: How should it be managed?

Should involve people on both sides of the debate and include causes of immigration in various demographical areas; visa regime, including UK and Russian relationship to Shengen, should be covered. Russian participant should be invited. Professor Rowthorn of Cambridge University and Andrew Green of Immigration Watch should also be invited. A factual background document before the conference would be valuable.

One member commented that there is already a concerted campaign to influence public perception against immigration (see last sentence of conference write-up).

The future of Justice and Home Affairs in an enlarged European Union

Should include European arrest warrant and extradition.

Turkey, the European Union and the Wider World

A Greek/Turkish Forum of business people who want to improve relations between the two countries could be drawn upon. Cyprus should be covered in the conference. NGOs should be invited to attend.

Economic Reform in Europe

It was thought that the 2nd sentence of write-up was too ambitious and should be omitted.

Idea of conference was to aim at the Lisbon agenda issues of concern to politicians and senior officials.

What about including, "How does Europe survive if Germany follows Japan's model?"

A Trade Union representative should be invited to speak.

The Impact of the new EU Member States' and Prospects for a Second Wave

West Balkan and Turkish aspirations should be covered in the other relevant conferences.

Curbing Corruption in the Enlarged EU and its new Neighbours: Lessons from Successful Strategies in Central and Eastern Europe

Lessons from those who have failed in these strategies in Central Europe should also be looked at. Wilton Park said that this conference might have to be dropped because the envisaged financial support would not now materialise.

Europe's Common Foreign and Security Policy

Should include: What are the obstacles to a CFSP?

The European Union's New Constitution: How Can We Implement It? Is it Enough?

Who does "We" refer to in the title?

Global Economic and Social Policies

Additional themes suggested were:

Something on drugs/supply of drugs should be included in this section. "Crime, Security, Terrorism, do they all result from drug world?" Current policy on drugs causes more problems than it solves.

“Whither G8 meetings?”

“Link between science and public policy, both nationally and internationally – eg GM foods etc”

“Alternatives to Custody?”

“Human numbers – growing population?” one member said this topic was cut off many agendas by different bodies of people (different religious groups etc). Health care, standards of living, education programmes for women, how India and China deal with this, could all be covered. In response it was said that these topics had been touched on in other conferences and it was difficult to finance this type of conference. But the prospects would be considered further.

Combating Child Abuse on the Internet: How can the international response be improved

More countries to be included at this conference than the first. The Internet Watch Foundation was mentioned as possible participant. Should include: What drives the market?

Improving Cooperation to combat International Crime

It was said that this conference seemed to overlap the ones on Justice and Home Affairs and the war on terrorism. In defence it was pointed out that this conference is aimed at a different audience. Suggested that good governance and human rights should be looked at alongside terrorism.

Completing the World Trade Negotiations

Commonwealth should be included as a potential vehicle for alleviating trade problems – someone from Commonwealth Secretariat should be invited to attend. Important to have good US participation.

“How do you make trade work for the poorest?” should be covered here too. The ILO Commission and Mary Robinson at Aspen were working on this. Another member suggested that there was enough here for 3 separate conferences on: “Doha”, “Regional Trade Relationships”, “How should we deal with the US?” and perhaps also “How you involve developing countries in global governance”.

Key Regions and Countries

Much discussion on this section: some added ideas for conferences:

“Influence of Women as a Counter-Balance to Terrorism/Extremism” . How can they be harnessed to the good?” Much progress had been made in Bahrain on this subject.

Libya, Iran, Central Asia (Uzbekistan and others), Saudi Arabia or Gulf. It was pointed out that a new conference on “Security in the Gulf Region” envisaged for later this year would include Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Nepal and Burma.

SE Asia: Indonesia and Malaysia. However it was difficult to get funding for this.

Afghanistan: Beyond the Bonn Agreement

Write-up needs to be worded better. One area to be covered might be “What were the steps on security which should have taken place?” It was suggested that there was nothing new to add from this conference. This was contested.

Regional, political and economic cooperation could be of more use as a topic than this one.

Also, “Relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan” - situation very volatile.

Negotiating Peace in the Middle East

It was suggested that holding this conference in May/June 2004 would not achieve much.

South Asia Forum 2004

This is an annual conference for under 40s.

Russia: Towards True Partnership

It was pointed out that Ditchley Foundation was holding a conference on the same subject at same time next year. The write-up should be shorter and more focussed.

Governance and Global Institutions

“Future of international law”, should be looked at and Human Rights Law/Humanitarian Law seem to be ignored and should be addressed. It was pointed out that these will be included in “Protection of Civilians” conference.

“Living with American power – does it comply with international law? How do we temper the type of power status that the US enjoys?”

Rebuilding the credibility of the United Nations Security Council

Last sentence in write-up, “What is the future of Security Council reform?”, should come first.

“Can it be made into an effective instrument of government or is it going to become completely irrelevant?”

Should be tougher questions.

Future of Democracy

One member asked what areas it would focus on. This had not yet been decided. Another suggested involving the Youth Parliament on this subject.

Corporate Governance

One member thought the language in the last two sentences needed modification.

“How can smaller businesses incorporate corporate governance in a positive way? How can business across the world develop common corporate governance standards?”

Sustainable Development and the Environment

Should ask in all these conferences why more progress is not being achieved.

Coordinating humanitarian assistance in conflict-related crises: how to maintain neutrality and impartiality?

“Learning Lessons from post-conflict situations” (eg US in Iraq)

Global Public Goods: Financing the Framework

This conference seemed to touch on AIDS as well as the separate AIDS conference. It was explained that this conference would follow a health-focussed one that was taking place here this June, with finance supplied by the Gates Foundation. Health would only be one component.

Defence, Security and Conflict Prevention

It was suggested that a conference on “Intelligence” be included, to cover the quality of Intelligence and the way it is applied.

NATO: European Security and the Transatlantic Alliance: How to Strengthen Cooperation?

Suggested title should be changed so that it does not focus so much on NATO itself.

Policy towards Rogue States

Could include Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran. Saudi Arabia plays an important role.

To be included, "Are the Rules Changing, or should they be changed?"

It was agreed that Rogue States was not a helpful phrase and should be used in inverted commas or not at all.

Chemical and Biological Weapons: Reducing the Threat

One of three conferences on similar subjects. It was explained that there was strong demand for these events.

25 June 2003