

**SUMMER MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL (WPAC)
TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2004 – WISTON HOUSE**

Present:

Wilton Park Academic Council:

Dr Farhan Nizami (Chair)	Director, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
Sir Rodric Braithwaite	Chairman, Russia Programme, Centre for European Reform
Dr David Bryer	Chair of Oxfam International and Trustee of Save the Children
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale	Labour Party parliamentary representative
Mr Nik Gowing	Journalist and broadcaster
Dr Heather Grabbe	Research Director, Centre for European Reform
Mr Janusz Heath	Managing Director, Allianz Specialised Investments
Ms Mary Jo Jacobi	Vice-President, Group External Affairs, Shell International
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
Lord Young of Norwood Green	Trade Union Liaison Officer, Ethical Trading Initiative

FCO

Paul Madden	Assistant Director of Information and Head of Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Peter Hill	Directorate of Strategy & Information
Nigel Schofield	Wilton Park Section, Public Diplomacy Policy Department

WILTON PARK

Colin Jennings	Chief Executive
Richard Latter	Director
Nick Hopkinson	Deputy Director
Robin Hart	Associate Director
Chris Langdon	Associate Director
Roger Williamson	Associate Director
Isobelle Jaques	Associate Director
Adela Gooch	Associate Director
Jane Rawbone	PA/Mr Jennings (note-taker)

ACTION POINTS

- a) Wilton Park. Secretariat to publish the minutes of the December meeting on Wilton Park's website (para 2).
- b) Wilton Park. Chief Executive to set up WPAC Sub-committee with business members of the Council to discuss fund-raising in the private sector (para 4).
- c) Wilton Park. Chief Executive to produce a paper for the next meeting on Wilton Park's mission, brand and the strategy for the choice of themes and locations for future conferences (para 5).
- d) Wilton Park. Secretariat to agree Council's Annual Report out of committee (para 11).

Apologies

1. Dr Farhan Nizami, new Chair of the Council, welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He congratulated Sir Anthony Young on his appointment to the House of Lords and David Green on his recent knighthood in the Birthday Honours. Apologies were received from Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Sir Patrick Cormack, Mr Keith Dobson, Dr Jim Dougal, Sir David Green, Mr David Heath and Professor Anand Menon.

Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting

2. The Chair had two amendments to the minutes of the last meeting. The final sentence of paragraph 4 was a duplication and should be removed. In the second bullet point in paragraph 7, it should be noted that Sir Michael Bett was Chairman and not Patron of the Heinz Koeppler Trust Appeal. With those corrections the minutes were approved.

Item 2: Matters arising

3. In response to action point (b) from the winter meeting, Mr Madden confirmed that the FCO and Wilton Park were following up the recommendations in the FCO Review of Conference Facilities. A marketing strategy to promote awareness of Wilton Park at the FCO had been agreed. A joint letter from Public Diplomacy Policy Department (PDPD) and Mr Jennings would issue shortly to all FCO Directors on support for next year's conferences. Steps had been taken to brief Press and Public Affairs Officers, from British missions overseas, at their regional conferences, about Wilton Park. Mr Jennings said the aim was to raise awareness, within the FCO, of what Wilton Park did and how it could contribute to FCO strategic priorities. Individual Directorates within the FCO "validated" up to 30 conference themes a year and often provided financial support. British missions overseas also recommended participants. He said that the FCO's recently formed Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) could be another source of sponsorship for certain conferences although most of the funding had so far come from Directorates' programme budgets.

Item 3: Chief Executive's Report

4. The Chief Executive said that:

- The conferences held since December (and in the financial year as a whole) had attracted exceptionally high ratings from participants.
- The conferences had achieved good financial backing in the last FY – 40% from outside the UK – not least because of their policy focus.
- There had, however, been an unusual number of cancellations. This had caused a shortfall of 4% in meeting running costs. This was the first time in 6 years there had been a shortfall against the targets set by the FCO. Wilton Park needed to raise over £3.5m annually, of which £1m came from participants. The ideal number of participants at each conference was 65 – which included 15 speakers, who were non-fee paying. Those conferences with lower attendance were often on themes new to Wilton Park eg on corporate governance. It took time to develop interest.
- It had not proved feasible to include in his Report points raised at the recent Wilton Park International Advisory Council owing to the lack of time between the two meetings.

5. In discussion:

- It was suggested that Wilton Park should try to encourage more commercial sponsorship and participation at their events and that a Sub-Committee of the business members of the Academic Council should be formed to advise on fund-raising from the private sector.
- The Chief Executive explained that the cancellations of some conferences had related to circumstances at the time, including promised funding not materialising, problems in a peace process and a government changing the date of a major donors' meeting so that it clashed with a planned conference.
- It was noted that Wilton Park had attracted more US participants to conferences than previously. This was because of its strong reputation, especially in the security policy field. There had also been an increase in attendance of politicians and parliamentarians, mainly from overseas.
- The Wilton Park International Association (WPIA) now had 450 members and the first Annual Dinner had been successfully held in April. Suggestions from the discussion would be followed up, including the idea of organising a forum for young people from the Arab and Western world.
- It was hoped to hold 8 overseas conferences in 2005. This area of activity was growing and it would be useful to review strategic objectives and evaluation criteria. The overseas conferences were mainly in response to demand from other countries, particularly in the EU, and were usually thematic rather than bilateral topics. The FCO supported them, and from a financial viewpoint they enabled Wilton Park to run 2 conferences consecutively. The practice is to export Wilton Park rather than create a different product, and to encourage participants at such conferences to come to others held at Wiston House. There was sometimes more frank discussion at Wiston House (ie away from most

participants' own environment). But the dynamics of all overseas conferences were very similar to those held at Wiston House.

- Planning was already in hand for some conference themes for 2006.
- Some conference themes are repeated annually, and some overseas venues were becoming a regular fixture.
- In the context of conferences abroad a discussion ensued about Wilton Park's 'brand' and 'core mission'. While some members welcomed conferences abroad as a means of raising the profile of the institution, others cautioned against the possible dilution of the brand. At Mr Madden's request the Chief Executive agreed to produce a paper for the next meeting of the Academic Council on the current branding of Wilton Park, the options for defining Wilton Park's brand and mission more clearly, the rationale for overseas conferences, including target outcomes, and the strategy for the choice of themes and locations for future conferences.

Item 4: FCO Strategy Paper

6. There was much discussion on the UK's international priorities. The Strategy was a new and welcome process within the FCO and was being put into practice throughout the organisation. It was a helpful document for Wilton Park as it emphasised how FCO funding was being prioritised. In discussion, members of the Council said that:

- A close and productive relationship with the US remained of key importance.
- The British public needed to be made more aware of the advantages of the UK remaining an active and committed member of the EU.
- The report being prepared by the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel was of great importance.

Item 5: Forward look from the FCO

7. Mr Hill, from the FCO's Directorate for Strategy and Information (DS&I) briefed the Council on events and topics of importance to the FCO for the coming year.

8. The EU Constitution needed to be agreed and ratification processes initiated; arrival of the new European Commission at the end of November; UK Presidency next year of both the EU and G8; US elections in November; possible UK elections next year; outcome of UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel in December; review conference for Millennium Development Goals.

9. Issues of importance included:

- Middle East (especially, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia).
- Transatlantic relations, possibly with a new US President.
- On new threats – Annan's panel would consider the issues around weak and failing states, including how the UN's capacity in this area could be strengthened. The Panel would also probably return to the debate on

humanitarian intervention . The Panel seemed unlikely to propose that the UN Charter should be changed. They also seemed unlikely to propose any particular model of Security Council reform, although they would have to consider the issue. The UK remained in favour of enlargement of the Security Council.

- A decision had to be taken on possible Turkish accession to the EU in December, although any accession itself would be some years off.
- The Prime Minister's Africa Commission was due to report to the G8 early next year.
- Climate change was also another priority for the Prime Minister during the UK's G8 Presidency.
- The Balkans, China, India/Pakistan, Afghanistan and the NPT review conference were other important issues on the agenda.
- The FCO itself would be reorganised over the next year to better reflect delivery of the new strategic priorities: initially within the UK, and subsequently overseas.

Item 6: Draft Calendar for 2005

10. Mr Jennings said the draft calendar drew upon discussion from the last WPAC meeting and contained 42 conference ideas. There was scope to organise 11 more. There were six categories (European Union, Global Economic and Social Policies, Key Regions and Countries, Governance and Global Institutions, Sustainable Development and the Environment, and Defence, Security and Conflict Prevention). Some themes are a continuation from before, others are new. They include ideas from participants. A judgement would have to be made on the viability of each: there was no guarantee that all would take place. 30 ideas would be put to the FCO after the Council's discussion. The aims for each conference were covered in the draft. The Council's suggestions are at Annex A.

Item 7: AOB

11. The Chair asked the Secretariat to agree the Council's Annual Report out of committee.

Item 8: Date of the next meeting

12. It was agreed that the Winter meeting should be on Tuesday, 30 November at 1030 at the FCO.

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1 November 2004

ANNEX A

SUMMER MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL: TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2004

Item 6: Draft Calendar for 2005

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

THE EUROPEAN UNION

Within the EU there is a gap between the "elites" and the people. Support for the EU in some countries seemed to be decreasing. The EU was not working as well as it should. It would be worth considering a conference on the implications of the referenda on the European Constitution. Such a conference should be during the UK Presidency of the EU. The policy questions for EU conferences should not be couched in terms that suggest the elite is right.

Rather than discuss the EU's relationship with its Eastern neighbours it would be better to discuss how those countries are developing. The German/French model for the EU is not one most Europeans find attractive. There should be discussion on what the model for an enlarged EU should be. There appeared to be a nationalist backlash in the EU allied to anti-globalisation. Conferences on the EU's future development should address the democratic deficit and answer Pat Cox's question: "Will anyone answer the wake-up call?"

There should be a broader view on the EU's southern neighbours with more on civil society. Terrorism and internal security should be covered. Also employment prospects for young men in North Africa, and a Europe-Islam focus.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES

Globalisation was good for developing countries but it was not clear if it was as compelling for developed countries. This issue should be included perhaps in a Trade conference.

Should be a conference on globalisation from different perspectives, eg offshore labour markets. There was no mention of the Millennium Development Goals. It was explained that this was a reserve idea as there was already a conference on good donorship.

There was no science on the agenda. Discussion on stem-cells, for example, could be included.

Perhaps the Chancellor's emphasis on creating a culture of enterprise should be considered.

Thought should be given to the rising role of women in the work place and Islamic countries.

There was a huge strain on global resources which was going to worsen and will be a problem for all global economies in the future. By 2020 90% of Britain's energy needs will have to be imported. Water resources and how they are shared would also become a problem. Nuclear energy should be considered.

Large pharmaceutical companies are now focussing on the role of alternative medicines and natural medicines.

It was suggested that some topics should be looked at from another angle, (eg the way Islamic people see the world). Perhaps rather than based on the assumption that Western orthodoxy is correct.

Strengthening EU-US Economic Relations

Speakers should include Treasury officials and bankers from the countries concerned who will know the facts.

Corporate Governance: New Demands, New Agendas

Aims for this conference were too negative and needed rephrasing to attract more participants. The beneficial effect of good corporate governance should be analysed. Extra-territoriality (Sarbanes Oxley) and the need for international accounting standards should also be incorporated.

KEY REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

British-German Forum

It was suggested that the British-German Forum and Young Koenigswinter could perhaps be run as a single event.

Atlantic Youth Forum [renamed from US-European Youth Forum]

This was being held for a second time owing to its success last year. It was suggested that there should also be a forum on Islamic and Western younger leaders. The Aga Khan may be a potential source of funding for this. It was important to ensure diversity of views.

It was thought that Wilton Park should do country conferences not just on India but on Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. Mr Jennings said the hope was to do some events on Iraq in response to developments.

GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

The growing culture and impunity should be covered. There was now a lack of respect for the Geneva Convention, for example, by some forces, and for international law, with war crime becoming an increasing concern. If a major power, eg the US, disregards the Convention, others will follow suit. Treatment of prisoners and use of torture another issue. "What is role of force in ending the conflicts?" perhaps should be included as a theme in one of the conferences.

Mr Jennings said that the conference on protection of civilians, in October 2004, could build on these ideas.

A conference should be considered on what is going to happen to democracy? Less and less people are voting at the polls, introduction of postal voting. Should look at ways in which countries can improve the turn out with use of different technology.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

It was suggested that, "building sustainable communities and cities" be included as a topic. Some EU accession states had economic and development problems following the collapse of the Eastern bloc.

DEFENCE, SECURITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Role of NATO v European armed forces. Is NATO now old hat?

The planned Nuclear Non-Proliferation conference should cover Iran. A conference should be considered on nuclear weapons and Europe. The US have nuclear weapons in Europe – do we care? What will the UK do after demise of the Trident? Ditto France and its strategic deterrent.

Should be a conference on small arms before the UN review in 2006.

Perhaps a further conference on how to transform war economies – what works and what does not work.

Also one on to what degree are security, poverty and injustice linked?

A further conference might be worthwhile on civil-military cooperation.

1 November 2004