

MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL, 4 DECEMBER 2002

At FCO

Present

Wilton Park Academic Council:

Lady Suzanne Warner (Chair)	Deputy Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission
Sir Rodric Braithwaite	Chairman, Russia Programme, Centre for European Reform
Dr David Bryer	Senior Adviser, Henri Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas	Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs
Keith Dobson	Secretary General, Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society
Dr Heather Grabbe	Research Director, Centre for European Reform
David Heath MP	Liberal Democrat parliamentary representative
Janusz Heath	Managing Director and Head of Central and Eastern European Private Equity, Dresdner Kleinwort Capital
Mary Jo Jacobi	Vice President, Group External Affairs, Shell International
Professor Anand Menon	Director, European Research Institute, University of Birmingham
Sir Michael Quinlan	Former Director, Ditchley Foundation
Lord Skidelsky	Professor of Political Economy, Warwick University
Dame Veronica Sutherland	Former Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth
Michael Walsh	Head of Research, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation
Sir Anthony Young	Former Senior Deputy General Secretary, Communication Workers Union

FCO:

Richard Stagg	Director of Information
Charles Winnington-Ingram	Wilton Park Section, Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Liz Huggins	Wilton Park Section, Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Anne McCarthy	Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Greg House	Public Diplomacy Policy Department

Wilton Park:

Colin Jennings	Chief Executive
Dr Richard Latter	Director

Nick Hopkinson
Robin Hart
Chris Langdon
Dr Roger Williamson
Isobelle Jaques
David Pinder

Deputy Director
Associate Director
Associate Director
Associate Director
Associate Director
Associate Director

ACTION POINTS

1. Secretariat to continue to invite a representative from DSI to meetings to provide an FCO overview of long term issues and priorities (para 4).
2. Secretariat to produce shorter, unattributed minutes of future meetings (para 5).
3. Secretariat to include the minutes of meetings in the Council Publication Scheme and so to arrange for their publication on the Wilton Park and FCO websites after their formal approval by the Council (para 6).
4. Secretariat to pursue the case for minutes to be made public documents under the Public Records Act (para 6).
5. Wilton Park to do more to attract conference participants from the Middle East (para 8).
6. Chief Executive to write to one member who sought previous years' performance figures for purpose of comparison (para 9).
7. Wilton Park to create an address book of past conference participants (para 16).
8. Wilton Park to consider emailing simple questionnaire to some conference participants six months after conferences attended by them (para 16).
9. Chair to pursue the question of HM Treasury desk-level approval of revised Wilton Park Framework Document if not received by end of February 2003 (para 18).

DRAFT RECORD

INTRODUCTION

1. As there were many new members, all present introduced themselves. Apologies were recorded from Nik Gowing, David Green, Dr Farhan Nizami, Jim Dougal, Sir Patrick Cormack and Lord Corbett of Castle Vale. Percy Mistry's resignation was reported with regret. Four reappointments effective from the summer 2003 meeting were also reported: Dr David Bryer, Dr Farhan Nizami, Sir Michael Quinlan and Dame Veronica Sutherland.

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.

ITEM 2: MATTERS ARISING

3. The action points from the last meeting were taken in turn. It was recorded that all action arising had been taken.
4. Participation by FCO Directorate for Strategy and Innovation (DSI) at future meetings was discussed. In the past this had provided an FCO overview of long-term issues and priorities. Members agreed that an oral (rather than written) presentation by DSI was useful. Interaction with the Council, given the breadth and depth of its membership, might also be useful for the DSI. It was agreed that the Secretariat should continue to invite a senior member of DSI to Council meetings.

ITEM 3: FUTURE FORMAT AND STATUS OF MINUTES

5. It was agreed after discussion that future minutes of meetings should be in a shorter, unattributed format.
6. There was discussion about the case for minutes to be made a public document, both for possible inclusion in the Council's Publication Scheme (managed by the Secretariat) and under the Public Records Act. It was agreed that the minutes should be included in the Publication Scheme and be published on the Wilton Park and FCO websites, after they had received formal approval from the Council (i.e. at soonest 6 months after the meetings they recorded). It was agreed that action on the minutes being made a public record under the Public Records Act should be left to the discretion of the Secretariat.

ITEM 4: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

7. The Chief Executive introduced his report. He said Richard Mayne's book on the history of Wilton Park would be published on 14 March 2003. There would be a launch at Wilton Park on that date, to which all members were invited.
8. Members discussed the report. In response to a question about low participation from Middle East countries, the Chief Executive explained that there was an annual conference on the Middle East Peace Process and that participation from particular regions depended to some extent on the subject matter of conferences. It was agreed Wilton Park would seek to attract more participants from that region.
9. The Chief Executive agreed to write to a member with information to help with a comparison of participation in previous years.
10. In response to a question about what percentage of income was generated from business sponsorship, the Chief Executive explained that the Corporate Membership scheme had not been created as a money-making exercise, and that it was meeting current expectations and would probably be expanded in the future – although that was not an overriding priority.

11. The Council congratulated Wilton Park on a successful year.

ITEM 5: POSSIBLE CONFERENCE THEMES FOR 2004

12. In the absence of a representative from the FCO's DSI Mr Stagg gave a brief FCO global overview which included the following areas of interest: the threat from terrorism; weapons of mass destruction; the West and its relationship with the Islamic World; crime, migration and drugs; Europe and EU enlargement; India/Pakistan; Africa; Russia; and China.

13. Suggestions from members for themes for conferences in 2004 are shown at Annex A.

ITEM 6: OUTCOMES OF WILTON PARK CONFERENCES – REPORT BY VIRGINIA CROWE

14. Members were generally impressed with the report. There was some discussion about how far Wilton Park should be expected to go in measuring reactions/impact.

15. There were suggestions that:

- Wilton Park should create an alumni association or address book, as a way of maintaining contact with past conference participants.
- Participants should be emailed 6 months after a conference to ask what three things they had taken away from conferences.
- One participant from each conference should be asked to write a short essay on his/her impressions.

16. The Chief Executive confirmed that Wilton Park was on the verge of creating an alumni association, which would be called the Wilton Park International Association. He agreed to explore the suggestions about creating an address book and contacting participants six months after their attendance at conferences.

17. Members recorded their thanks to Virginia Crowe for completing the report.

ITEM 7: WILTON PARK FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

18. A brief background to the revision of the Framework Document was given for the benefit of new members. The draft revised text was currently with HM Treasury awaiting desk-level approval, which was expected within the next two months. The Chair expressed her dissatisfaction that agreement on the revised text had dragged on for so long. It was agreed that if Treasury desk-level approval was not received within the next two months, allowing the agreed text to be submitted for the approval of Ministers, the Chair would pursue this matter by other means.

ITEM 8: ENDORSEMENT OF WILTON PARK'S CONTRIBUTION TO PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING AND SOLUTION OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS

19. The Council endorsed Wilton Park's contribution to the promotion of understanding and the solution of global problems, as required by its and Wilton Park's objectives and under the Framework Document. In addition, Wilton Park's team looked forward to consulting members on an individual basis on potential speakers and topics for conferences being organised in 2003.

ITEM 9: AOB

20. The Chief Executive said there was a standing invitation to all members to attend one conference a year free of charge as a guest of Wilton Park if they wished.

ITEM 10: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. It was agreed the next meeting would be held at Wiston House on Tuesday 10 June at 1600. The meeting would be followed by dinner. Accommodation would be provided for anyone who required it.

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7 January 2003

Distribution:

All Council members
All Wilton Park staff present
Mr Stagg
Mr Fraser, Director for Strategy and Innovation, FCO
Mr Buck, Head, Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Ms Sweeney, Deputy Head, Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Mrs McCarthy
Mr House

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SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR CONFERENCE THEMES FOR 2004 (see para 13 of the record of the meeting)

THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Europe:
 - the future of manufacturing
 - the transatlantic relationship: the widening gap between the US and Europe
 - enlargement and how to deal with the surrounding countries left out of Europe
 - Turkey and EU membership

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES

- Migration: the positive aspects of it; economics of migration; international labour markets
- Global inflation

KEY REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

- Germany: as potentially the future sick man of Europe: how to cope with German weakness; is Germany following Japan?
- Africa:
 - the AIDS issue
 - vaccinations: research & development and distribution in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Central Africa and its mineral wealth
- US: Power of the US – is it healthy to have just one superpower; a new imperialism
- Central European economies: how to help small and medium economies
- Future of the Balkans
- South East Asia
- China: the effect on manufacturing and trade
- Latin America: how the huge economic change occurring in Latin America affects the global economy
- Russia: the economic impact
- The Caspian region
- Gulf States

- Country specific conferences:

Nepal

Burma

Indonesia

Columbia

Turkey

Congo

GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

- UN: US policy; what authority the UN actually has and what should it have; the anti-terrorism work of the UN; implementing UN resolutions

- International Institutions: do other regions want to emulate the EU?; best practice and better collaboration between organisations

- The world of diplomacy: alternative sources of information e.g. intelligence agencies compared to open sources

- Science and Technology: how S&T could help reduce poverty

- Corporate citizenship: could large companies be trusted?

- Ethical globalisation

- International Human Rights Law: what would happen if it disappeared and what would replace it?

- Role of religion

- How international organisations worked when people feel they did not do so

- NGOs: what role did they have in world politics?

- Young leaders

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The environment

- Globalisation and development

- The role of energy in international development

- Tourism

DEFENCE, SECURITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

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- Islam: Attitudes of the Islamic world to the West
- The West: how other regions viewed the West; perceptions of the West
- War on Terrorism: how to reduce the causes of terrorism rather than deal with the effects; post-mortem on Iraq; are we equipped to deal with a long war on terrorism?
- How to deal with failing states
- The use of the military in a sub-war role
- How to reduce the world's anger
- Internal and external security
- NATO: the integration issue
- European defence
- Methodological failure of the intelligence services