

**WINTER MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL (WPAC)
THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2003 - FCO**

Present:

Wilton Park Academic Council:

Lady Suzanne Warner (Chair)	Deputy Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission
Dr David Bryer	Chair, Oxfam International, Trustee, Save The Children
Mr Victor Bulmer-Thomas	Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale	Labour Party parliamentary representative
Sir Patrick Cormack	Conservative Party parliamentary representative
Dr Heather Grabbe	Research Director, Centre for European Reform
Mr Keith Dobson	Secretary-General, Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society
Mr David Heath	Liberal Democrat parliamentary representative
Mr Janusz Heath	Managing Director and Head of Central and Eastern European Private Equity, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Capital
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
Sir Anthony Young	Trade Union Liaison Officer, Ethical Trading Initiative

FCO:

Mr Richard Stagg	Director of Information
Mr Paul Madden	Head, Public Diplomacy Policy Dept
Mr Martin Reynolds	Department of Strategy & Innovation
Mr Andrew Scattergood	Public Diplomacy Policy Department
Mr Nigel Schofield	Public Diplomacy Policy Department

Wilton Park:

Mr Colin Jennings	Chief Executive
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
Ms Adela Gooch	Associate Director
Ms Jane Rawbone	PA/Mr Jennings – Minutes

ACTION POINTS

- a) PDPD. To send letter to all Academic Council members with details of new Chair once appointed (para 3).
- b) PDPD and Wilton Park. To follow up recommendations from the Review (para 4).
- c) Wilton Park. Date of next meeting to be confirmed (para12). **After consultation with members Tuesday 15 June is now confirmed and the meeting will be at Wiston House at 1600.**

Apologies

1. Apologies received from Dr Farhan Nizami, David Green, Dr Jim Dougal, Prof Anand Menon, Mr Nik Gowing, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, Richard Latter and David Pinder. Chair welcomed Sir Patrick Cormack to his first meeting and also Paul Madden, Nigel Schofield, Andrew Scattergood from PDPD and Martin Reynolds from DSI.

Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting

2. The Minutes of the meeting on 10 June 2003 were approved and signed by the Chair.

Item 2: Matters arising

3. Response to action points from Summer meeting:

- (1) PDPD arranged with Records and Historical Dept that the minutes would be included in the FCO public records scheme.
- (2) This was overtaken by the decision not to pursue a Transatlantic meeting for US and European politicians.
- (3) Wilton Park have liaised with the British Council on Islam-West events and with the Omanis on financial support.

(4) The underlying aim has been pursued differently by arranging a major promotional reception to be hosted by a Minister at Lancaster House on 20 January 04.

(5) WPAC Annual Report was circulated at meeting. Chair asked for any comments to be sent to Colin Jennings by 19 December. Report would then be available on the Wilton Park website.

(6) Appointment of new WPAC Chair under the Nolan Rules was in hand and it was hoped that the process would be completed before Christmas. The Academic Council would be informed once the appointment had been confirmed.

There were no points outstanding.

Item 3: Review of Conference Facilities

4. The Review was initiated in September and Mr Stagg confirmed that it had now been completed. It had been agreed that Wilton Park performs well and contributes usefully to FCO objectives. The conclusions for Wilton Park were relatively mild with eight recommendations, which Mr Stagg outlined briefly. (For members' convenience, the recommendations are attached at Annex A.) The main result of the Review was that the need for one other conference facility would be scrutinised further.

5. It was suggested that there could be scope for holding a one day Wilton Park conference at Lancaster House, or for splitting a full conference between the two venues. It could help to generate stronger participation from London-based people, although the networking benefits would be much lower. Mr Bulmer-Thomas said that Chatham House would look favourably on doing joint events with Wilton Park if they were held at Lancaster House.

6. The Chair said that it was gratifying that the Review had reached positive conclusions about Wilton Park's role.

Item 4: Chief Executive's Report

7. The Chief Executive said that:

€# The conference programme ratings, one of the key quality indicators for Wilton Park, were slightly down on last year, though still highly respectable. However, financial support had significantly increased. About 40% had been received from non-British sources and a similar amount from the FCO. He would analyse the marginal downward turn in figures. It was commented that the top two markings (excellent and above average) were consistently over 95%.

€# First major donation, from BP, was received towards the £2m Heinz Koeppler Trust Appeal. The Chairman, Sir Michael Bett, was approaching corporations for contributions.

- ⌘ The new Wilton Park International Association (WPIA) was launched in July and has nearly 400 members already. The aim was to use the WPIA as a useful resource as it grew.
- ⌘ FCO Minister, Mike O'Brien, had agreed to host a reception for Wilton Park at Lancaster House on 20 January to promote business links (followed by a dinner for the founding corporate members).

The Chair thanked the Wilton Park team for another excellent period.

Item 5: Forward look from the FCO

8. Mr Reynolds, from the FCO's Directorate for Strategy and Innovation (DSI), handed out copies of the FCO Strategy paper (published on 2 December) which was an important statement on FCO policy for the next 5-10 years. His colleague, Peter Wilson, had highlighted the strategic priorities at the summer meeting. The UK international priorities were agreed inter-Departmentally. The 8 main strategic policy priorities, in no order of importance and all inter-linked, are:

- ⌘ A world safer from global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.
- ⌘ Protection of the UK from illegal immigration, drug trafficking and other international crime.
- ⌘ An international system based on the rule of law, which is better able to resolve disputes and prevent conflicts.
- ⌘ An effective EU in a secure neighbourhood.
- ⌘ Promotion of UK economic interests in an open and expanding global economy.
- ⌘ Sustainable development, underpinned by democracy, good governance and human rights. (No single country can tackle all this on its own, effective multilateral cooperation is needed.)
- ⌘ Security of UK and global energy supplies.
- ⌘ Security and good governance of the UK's Overseas Territories.

There was likely to be more of a functional, rather than geographical, focus in the FCO with more designated officers working on these priorities. The FCO will spend more time on issues such as energy security. Looking ahead to next year Iran, Iraq, Middle East peace process, reform in the Arab world, Afghanistan and Enlargement in Europe would be priorities. Much interest in conflict issues, failed states and post-conflict reconstruction (No 10 strategy unit are looking at policy on failed states). In the second half of 2005 Britain will have the EU and G8 Presidencies.

9. Points made in discussion:

- ⌘ The FCO will be supporting Lord Hannay on the UN Secretary-General's Panel. There will also be a Wilton Park conference on the principles underlying international intervention in January and another, linked to the Panel, in February.

- €# One Council Member thought that Wilton Park could dovetail with the FCO's strategic priorities.
- €# Others thought the Strategy meant that areas such as Latin America fell between the two stools.
- €# Reform in North Africa was a subject likely to be raised by Britain at the G8.
- €# The subject of WMD needed expert input at Wilton Park conferences.
- €# Mr Stagg said that Wilton Park should contribute to FCO objectives. The FCO had no master plan, for example, on energy, so any informed debate on that could help move FCO policy forward. All this reinforced the need to work closely with the FCO.
- €# It was agreed that Wilton Park also needed to protect its academic independence and could not be expected to follow every part of FCO policy. But the FCO strategy should be a starting point for consideration of conference themes, and it was already planned to cover most of the priorities in forthcoming conferences. It was agreed that Council Members should be given the opportunity to read the Strategy paper and could then discuss at the Summer meeting its implications for Wilton Park's work.

Item 6: Possible conference themes for 2005

10. [See Annex B]

Item 7: AOB

11. The Chair said that after two years of working with the WPAC, Mr Stagg would shortly be moving to another FCO job (DG, Corporate Affairs), and wished him well in his new appointment. Mr Stagg also thanked Lady Warner for chairing the Council with deftness and energy. Lady Warner said that she had been grateful for support over the period from the FCO and from Colin Jennings and Wilton Park staff. Mr Jennings added that Lady Warner had been an invaluable source of advice and active behind the scenes. He was very grateful for all she had done. He also thanked Mr Stagg. Lord Skidelsky thanked Lady Warner, on behalf of the Academic Council, who appreciated the skill with which she had handled the Council and wished her success in any new ventures.

Item 8: Date of the next meeting

12. Tuesday 15 June 2005 was proposed, subject to confirmation, with Thursday 17 June the alternative. After consultation with members **Tuesday 15 June** is now confirmed and the meeting will be at Wiston House at 1600.

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15 January 2004

ANNEX A

MEETING OF WILTON PARK ACADEMIC COUNCIL, 11 DECEMBER 2003

[See Item 3, para 4 of Minutes]

Recommendations on Wilton Park From FCO Review of Conference Facilities

- ⊘ PDPD to act as the lead in a Wilton Park awareness campaign within the FCO
- ⊘ Wilton Park to review the request for room numbers on their participant questionnaire
- ⊘ PDPD to take the lead in introducing the separate questionnaire for FCO participants in Wilton Park conferences
- ⊘ PDPD, in liaison with Wilton Park's Marketing Executive, to consider ways to raise Wilton Park's profile within the FCO
- ⊘ Subject to security constraints, a Firecrest terminal [FCO computer system] to be installed within the Chief Executive's office
- ⊘ Wilton Park to notify FCO Departments urgently if they are unable to issue invoices within the agreed deadline
- ⊘ The Information Directorate Resource Management Officer to brief all new Departmental Board members, FCO Resource/Finance staff, and new PDPD staff about the financial set up at Wilton Park
- ⊘ FCO and Wilton Park to discuss the feasibility of the Agency operating on a full cost recovery basis in the light of negotiations on a new lease

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ANNEX B

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Item 6: Possible conference themes for 2005

The following themes were suggested by Council Members:

- ⊘ Suggestion of a rapid reaction conference in June 2004 on the European Constitution following the referenda in 7 of the EU countries, some of whom may turn down the Constitution.
- ⊘ Energy security and energy in a sustainable world.
- ⊘ Overseas Territories.
- ⊘ The EU's relationship with the Balkans.
- ⊘ EU security policy.
- ⊘ Latin America: does its economic backwardness contribute to its lack of security?
- ⊘ Building sustainable communities (lot of work being done on this in the UK at present)
- ⊘ Politics of water shortage. Again the UK has a number of experts in the water companies who could give good input into this subject.
- ⊘ Following the success of the Young US-European forum, the concept should be expanded to other regions. Need to create a culture of enterprise in places where they do not exist, especially among young people.
- ⊘ Tourism post-terrorism.
- ⊘ Compatibility of the war on terrorism with academic freedom – to what extent are they being constrained, does this have damaging implications?
- ⊘ South Caucasus .
- ⊘ Building of good governance in terms of civil policing and the different models of policing around the world.
- ⊘ Role of remittances in international development. Emigrants are sending back a lot of money to their country of origin, what effect does this have on development? Should it be incorporated into development policy?
- ⊘ How do you finish a war?
- ⊘ Health spending and services. Central Europeans have a good framework for alternative delivery mechanisms. Countries have increasingly less money – issue for UK and US too. (Could ask pharmaceutical companies to sponsor such a conference.)
- ⊘ Policy on pensions and social security. Again some Central European countries (Poland in particular) could teach Western countries on the way they have tackled this subject. What should be done about massive pension funds? Employment and social policies for an ageing society.
- ⊘ Public services generally – many of the same challenges faced by all European countries rich and poor.

- ⌘ Technology and productivity in government – major changes in terms of bringing productivity into governments by large IT companies – how do you use technology effectively to lower some of the manufacture costs? Microsoft etc have products which could make major savings for companies, however often IT companies fail to deliver what they claim to deliver.
- ⌘ Democracy. There are different models of democracy, not just the US model – what model suits what culture?
- ⌘ How will the changes about to take place in the EU (enlargement, new European Parliament, Commission etc) alter the way in which the EU does business?
- ⌘ Following a US election – if there is a big change in government what implications for UK and EU foreign policy?
- ⌘ Iran. What government structure do they want? The prospects.
- ⌘ North Africa, especially Libya and Algeria.
- ⌘ Turkey – specifically the road ahead on negotiations for their membership of the EU.
- ⌘ EU budget – could look more broadly at this and economic diversity across Europe.
- ⌘ Indonesia
- ⌘ International management of criminal justice. Are international structures and procedures good enough for dealing with all of them?
- ⌘ Future of nuclear power.
- ⌘ What happens now about Kyoto?
- ⌘ WMD – not a good term, it has become an obsession. Need more sceptics to talk about this at conferences.
- ⌘ Should also be more done on trade in small arms and arms trade, before UN conference on Small arms in 2006?
- ⌘ Future of CIS – will become interesting in the short term. Long term aim of Russia to reunite with Ukraine and Belarus?
- ⌘ Theory of just war. Could be fitted in with US Secretary-General's High level Panel.
- ⌘ UN – balance between its role and nation states on sustainable development.
- ⌘ AIDS and Africa – whither the governments of Africa if many middle-class people die of AIDS?
- ⌘ WTO – freedom of trade, and relationship between individual governments. Why did Cancun not work? Agricultural subsidies and other background issues.
- ⌘ Corporate responsibility. The way companies use global sources and move their personnel from one country to another, ie call centres in India.
- ⌘ Movement of people in Europe – ever growing issues. What makes people migrate?
- ⌘ Sustainable development and poverty reduction. Millennium goals not going to be achieved. Need to do something radical on this.
- ⌘ Terrorism – alternative ways of reducing the threat from terrorism and states who support them. Need to learn from mistakes of Iraq.

- €# How do Governments react to being advised by religious fundamentalists – do they create a different type of thinking or influence?
- €# Israeli-Palestinian problem. Work of civil society, possibility of influencing opinion in both Israel and Palestinian territories. Need for more public debate on the Middle East in US and elsewhere.
- €# Zimbabwe – future of the Commonwealth.
- €# China and its population.
- €# Responsibility of capitalists.
- €# What is drug trafficking and how we choose to define it? Why do people decide to use drugs, especially young people? How should we in Western Europe deal with the issues?

Agreed there was a need for the FCO to have as much intellectual input as possible on these issues and Wilton Park could make a real contribution by energising debates from within government on these topics.

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