

## Referendum on the European Community (Common Market)

# Why you should vote NO

**This is a statement by the National Referendum Campaign NOT by HM Government**

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### **Re-negotiation**

The present Government, though it tried, has on its own admission failed to achieve the “fundamental re-negotiation” it promised at the last two General Elections. All it has gained are a few concessions for Britain, some of them only temporary. The real choice before the British peoples has been~ scarcely altered by re-negotiation.

### **What did the pro-Marketeers say?**

Before we joined the Common Market the Government forecast that we should enjoy

- A rapid rise in our living standards
- A trade surplus with the Common Market
- Better productivity
- Higher investment
- More employment
- Faster industrial growth

In every case the opposite is now happening according to the Government's figures. Can we rely upon the pro-Marketeers' prophecies this time?

The anti-Marketeers' forecasts have turned out to be all too correct. When you are considering the pro-Marketeers' arguments, you should remember this.

Remember also that before the referendum in Norway, the pro-Marketeers predicted, if Norway came out,, just the same imaginary evils as our own pro-Marketeers are predicting now. The Norwegian people voted NO. And none of these evil results occurred.

### **Our legal right to come out.**

It was agreed during the debates which' took us into the Common Market that the British Parliament had the absolute right to repeal the European Communities Act and take us out. There is nothing in the Treaty of Rome which says a country cannot come out.

## THE RIGHT TO RULE OURSELVES

The fundamental question is whether or not we remain free to rule

ourselves in our own way

For the British people, membership of the Common Market has already been a bad bargain. What is worse, it sets out by stages to merge Britain with France, Germany, Italy and other countries into a single nation. This will take away from us the right to rule ourselves which we have enjoyed for centuries.

The Common Market increasingly does this by making our laws and by deciding our policies on food, prices, trade and employment—all matters which affect the lives of us all.

Already, under the Treaty of Rome, policies are being decided, rules made, laws enacted and taxes raised, not by our own Parliament elected by the British people, but by the Common Market—often by the unelected Commissioners in Brussels.

As this system tightens—and it will—our right, by our votes, to change policies and laws in Britain will steadily dwindle. Unlike British laws, those of the Common Market—which will take precedence over our own laws—can only be changed if all the other members of the Common Market agree.

### **Your vote affects the future of your country**

This is wholly contrary to the wishes of ordinary people who everywhere want more, not less, control over their own lives.

Those who want Britain in the Common Market are defeatists; they see no independent future for our country.

Your vote will affect the future of your country for generations to come.

We say: Let's rule ourselves, while trading and remaining friendly with other nations.

We say: No rule from Brussels. We say: Vote No.

## **YOUR FOOD, YOUR JOBS, OUR TRADE**

We cannot afford to remain in the Common Market because:

### **It must mean still higher food prices**

Before we joined, we could buy our food at the lowest cost from the most efficient producers in the world. Since we joined, we are no longer allowed to buy all our food where it suits us best. Inside the Common Market, taxes are imposed on food imported from outside countries. For instance, we now have to pay a tax of over £300 a ton on butter imported from outside the Market and over £350 a ton on cheese.

Our food is still cheaper than in the rest of the Common Market. But if we stay in, we will be forced by Common Market rules to bring our food prices up to Common Market levels. All of us, young and old alike, will have to pay. For example, the price of butter has to be almost doubled by 1978 if we stay in.

### **Food destroyed — or sold to Russia**

If the vote is Yes, your food must cost you more. Not merely do the Common Market authorities tax food imports or shut them out, but they also buy up home-produced food (through Intervention Boards) purely to keep the prices up. Then they store it in

warehouses, thus creating mountains of beef, butter, grain, etc. Some of this food is deliberately made unfit for human consumption or even destroyed, and some is sold to countries like Russia, at prices well below what the housewife in the Common Market has to pay.

The Common Market has already stored up a beef mountain of over 300,000 tons, and all beef imports from outside have been banned.

### **Food price increases due to the Market**

If we come out of the Market, we could buy beef, veal, mutton, lamb, butter, cheese and other foods more cheaply than if we stay in. World food prices outside the Market are now falling.

There is no doubt that the rise in food prices in Britain in the last three years has been partly due to joining between 1971 and 1974, food prices rose in Britain and Ireland (which joined) by over 40%. In Norway and Sweden (which stayed out) they rose only by about 20%.

### **Your jobs at risk**

If we stay in the Common Market, a British Government can no longer prevent the drift of industry southwards and increasingly to the Continent. This is already happening.

If it went on, it would be particularly damaging to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and much of the North and West of England, which have suffered so much from unemployment already.

If we stay in the Common Market, our Government must increasingly abandon to them control over this drift of industry and employment.

### **Their threat to iron, steel and our oil**

Far-reaching powers of interference in the control of British industry, particularly iron and steel, are possessed by the Market authorities.

Interference with the oil around our shores has already been threatened by the Brussels Commission.

### **Huge trade deficit with Common Market**

The Common Market pattern of trade was never designed to suit Britain.

According to our Department of Trade, our trade deficit with the Common Market was running, in the early months of 1975, at nearly £2,600 million a year—a staggering figure, compared with a very small deficit in - -1970 when we were free to trade in accordance with our own policies.

### **What they said was wrong**

Yet before entry, the pro-Marketeers said that the “effect upon our balance of trade would be positive and substantial”. If you don’t want this dangerous trade deficit to continue, vote *No*.

**Taxes to keep prices up** The Common Market’s dear food policy is designed to

prop up inefficient farmers on the Continent by keeping food prices high. If we stay in the Market, the British housewife will not only be paying more for her food but the British taxpayer will soon be paying many hundreds of millions of pounds a year to the Brussels budget, largely to subsidise Continental farmers. We are already paying into the Budget much more than we get out. This is entirely unreasonable and we cannot afford it.

**Agriculture** It would be far better for us if we had our own national agricultural policy suited to our own country, as we had before we joined. We could then guarantee prices for our farmers, and, at the same time, allow consumers to buy much more cheaply.

In the Common Market, the British taxpayer is paying as much to keep food prices up as we used to pay under our own policy to keep them down.

The Market also have their eyes on British fishing grounds because they have over-fished their own waters.

**Commonwealth links** Our Commonwealth links are bound to be weakened much further if we stay in the Common Market. We are being forced to tax imported Commonwealth goods. And as we lose our national independence, we shall cease, in practice, to be a member of the Commonwealth.

**Britain a mere province of the Common Market?** The real aim of the Market is, of course, to become one single country in which Britain would be reduced to a mere province. The plan is to have a Common Market Parliament by 1978 or shortly thereafter. Laws would be passed by that Parliament which would be binding on our country. No Parliament elected by the British people could change those laws.

This may be acceptable to some Continental countries. In recent times, they have been ruled by dictators, or defeated or occupied. They are more used to abandoning their political institutions than we are.

Unless you want to be ruled more and more by a Continental Parliament in which Britain would be in a small minority, you should vote NO.

## WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

### A far better course is open to us

If we withdraw from the Market, we could and should remain members of the wider Free Trade Area which now exists between the Common Market and the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)—Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Iceland.

These countries are now to enjoy free entry for their industrial exports into the Common Market without having to carry the burden of the Market's dear food policy or suffer rule from Brussels.

Britain already enjoys industrial free trade with these countries. If we withdrew from the Common Market, we should remain members of the wider group and enjoy, as the EFTA countries do, free or low-tariff entry into the Common Market countries without the burden of dear food or the loss of the British people's democratic rights.

The Common Market countries would be most unlikely to oppose this arrangement, since this would neither be sensible nor in their own interests. They may well demand a free trade area with us. But even if they did not do so, their tariffs on British exports would be very low.

### **Scare-mongering of the pro-Marketeers**

It is scare-mongering to pretend that withdrawal from the Common Market would mean heavy unemployment or loss of trade. In a very few years we shall enjoy in North Sea oil a precious asset possessed by none of the Common Market countries. Our freedom to use this oil, and our vast coal reserves, unhampered by any threatened Brussels restrictions, will strengthen our national economy powerfully.

### **FOR PEACE, STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE**

Some say that the Common Market is a strong united group of countries, working closely together, and that membership would give us protection against an unfriendly world.

There is no truth in this assertion.

The defence of Britain and Western Europe depends not on the Common Market at all, but on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which includes other countries like the United States, Canada and Norway, which are not members of the Common Market.

Any attempt to substitute the Common Market for NATO as a defence shield would be highly dangerous for Britain. Most anti-Marketeers rightly believe that we should remain members of NATO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, EFTA and the Council of Europe, as well as of the UN and its agencies.

In all these, we can work actively together as good internationalists, while preserving our own democratic rights.

### **THE CHOICE IS YOURS**

It will be your decision that counts.

Remember: you may never have the chance to decide this great issue again.

If you want a rich and secure future for the British peoples, a free and democratic society, living in friendship with all nations - but governing ourselves:

## **VOTE NO**