

The role of Edward Heath in Britain's accession to the European Economic Community 1970-1973

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Abstract

topic of studying political figures is one that has attracted the attention of many researchers and historians alike. political personalities ", given their prominent place in historical studies, particularly if these political figures have made an impact on political decision-making at the domestic and international levels and the study of British political figures represented a prominent place in historical studies for their detailed information on how global policy-making and leadership are conducted, The subject of Britain joining the European Group is one of the important topics given the economic, political and even social implications of this joining Britain on the one hand and on the other Europe Heath cannot deny achieving Britain's entry into the Group s political and economic role in Europe as an extension of Britain's dispossession in Europe over the previous centuries.

Keywords: (, Heath, Europe, Pompidou, Britain,)

First, the problem of British membership within the corridors of the British House of Commons 1970-1971

Europe has been an important focus of Heath's political career and ideology since his fingernails ⁽¹⁾ In addition, he was Britain's most prominent prime minister on the idea of linking his country to Europe in the aftermath of World War II. ⁽²⁾Heath's desire for Britain to join the European Economic Community since the 1950s and, with great passion, presided over the first application negotiations of 1961 ⁽³⁾membership of the European Economic Community was not merely an economic issue for Heath, but a political crusade ⁽⁴⁾. and Heath believed that Britain's entry into the Group would transform the future of the British economy for the better and would have a voice within the Group and a great place, and Britain would be able to provide economic assistance to the Commonwealth of Six Nations ⁽⁵⁾

The reasons for Charles de Gaulle's refusal to accept British membership are because the latter was linked to good relations with the United States, as well as Britain's access to

⁽¹⁾ Ardrik Klassens, Edward heath his vision for Europe his government and henry kissinger's year of Europe, Unpublished thesis, University of Leiden, Faculty of humanities, 2011, P.1.

⁽²⁾David Gowland and others, Britain and European integration since 1945, 1ed, Routledge , London, 2010, P.72.

⁽³⁾Geir.k. Almlid, Britain and Norway in Europe since 1945, 1ed, Palgrave macmillan London, 2020, P.106.

⁽⁴⁾David Gowland and others, Op.Cit., P.72

⁽⁵⁾John W. Young, Britain and European united 1945-1992, 1ed, St. Martin's Press,Inc., USA, 1993, P.108-110.

economic interests and tax concessions from the Group, to benefit Commonwealth countries at the expense of the group countries ⁽¹⁾

A few months later, the European Commission's Lahai Summit - Den Haag Summit ⁽²⁾ was held on December 1, 1969, at which the Group's countries showed a positive attitude towards expansion and showed a dramatic shift. In French politics, British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart - Micheal Stewart told the House of Commons about the British application, Harold Wilson began preparations for the third application for membership, but the June 1970 election, which was won by Edward Heath as Prime Minister for the application ⁽³⁾, came to the House of Commons. and Heath's government began in July 1970 by convincing conservative activists, MPs and various opinion makers of the need for Britain to join the European Economic Community ⁽⁴⁾ Particularly after the resignation of Charles de Gaulle and the assumption of Georrges Jean Pompidou ⁽⁵⁾In 1970 the office of President of France ⁽⁶⁾Britain entered into good relations with the countries of the Economic Community, mainly France ⁽⁷⁾ and Heath has long recognized Britain's loss of world power and promised to join the Group the only way internationally to ensure Britain's contribution and development globally. ⁽⁸⁾

Shortly after Edward Heath won the election, he met with Christopher Soames, the British ambassador to France, to enquire about the British Government's possibility of reopening negotiations with the Group and convincing France of its membership, and Soames appeared optimistic and convinced that membership would succeed this time. ⁽⁹⁾ The House of Commons debate on the third submission began and the House of Commons debate on this issue was promised from the longest since the war. House of Commons MPs from both parties expressed fear over the issue of joining the group, but Heath's view on the matter proved likely to be the last opportunity available to Britain To join the Group, noting that in the future China will become the third superpower in the world, highlighting Britain's need for Europe because Britain's power alone is insufficient to guarantee Britain's international standing ⁽¹⁰⁾ Heath stressed the need for a plebiscite of Parliament and the British people on the issue of accession, Heath said in his election speech in the summer of 1970 ⁽¹¹⁾ "It is a big mistake for Britain to enter the group without taking the full approval of Parliament and the people. ⁽¹²⁾ This was the most important affirmation of Heath and the session ended with the

⁽¹⁾Anthony Joel, Herbert-Wright, Britain, Edward heath and the e.e.c: 1963-1973, N.P., N.D. P.10.

⁽²⁾The Hague Summit was held on December 2, 1969 at the invitation of French President George Jean Pompidou to resolve differences over the Common Agricultural Policy. Member States also agreed to expand the Group by joining four candidate countries, namely Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Norway. For more information, see the website:
<https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/>

⁽³⁾Geir .k. Almlid, Britain and Norway in Europe since 1945, 1ed, Palgrave macmillan London, 2020, P.106.

⁽⁴⁾Paul Gliddon, Programmes subjected to interference: The heath government Broadcasting and the European Community, 1970–1971, The Historical Association and Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Garsington Road, Oxford, 2006, P.406.

⁽⁵⁾George Jean Mombedo (1911-1974): French politician, early in his life Professor of Classical Sciences at Lycée High, He then worked in de Gaulle's office between 1944 and 1946, as he worked at Rothschild Bank and became its general manager in 1954, taking over as President of the Second Republic of France after Charles de Gaulle in 1969. Ka played a role in the administration of de Gaulle's party, but he had a moderate pragmatic prefecture. It was different from its predecessor and devalued the French franc that de Gaulle had maintained and gave Britain the green light to join the European Economic Group after de Gaulle refused to enter it twice, first in 1963 and again in 1968. For more views:

The Hutchinson encyclopedia of modern political biography , Helicon Book, Helicon, 2005, N.P

⁽⁶⁾Rogelia Pastor-Castro and John W.Young, The Paris embassy, British ambassadors and Anglo- French relations 1944-79, 1ed, Palgrave macmillan, London, 2013, P.150.

⁽⁷⁾Andrew Rosen, The transformation of british life 1950-2000, A social history, 1ed, Manchester university press,UK, 2003, P.2003, P.160.

⁽⁸⁾Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., P.106.

⁽⁹⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.363.

⁽¹⁰⁾Ardrik Klassens, Op.Cit.,P.24.

⁽¹¹⁾Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., P.117.

⁽¹²⁾Qouted in: Donley T.Studlar and Jerold L.Waltman, Dilemmas of change in british politics, University press of mississippi printed, Hong kong, 1984, P. 162.

Conservative Heath government winning the vote by one hundred and twelve votes in favour. (1) opinions polls in 1970 showed only 19% supported joining the group while 63% opposed it (2)

Christopher Soames played a historic role as Britain's ambassador to Paris (3), as Heath praised him: "Without Christopher Soames' skilled diplomacy we will never succeed" (4) Jeffrey Rippon took responsibility for chairing negotiations with the group's European Commission, and Jeffrey Tucker ran the British government's propaganda campaign (5) as well as the British Foreign Office's willingness to support Heath's propaganda campaign, civil servants played an important role, notably the Downing Street and Norman Redaway press officer Sir Donald Maitland, who worked in three sections of the Foreign Office and spoke of the importance of media publicity for the negotiations, saying: "The media effort is important to educate public opinion on European society and the implications of UK membership" (6)

The propaganda campaign included the production of millions of newspapers, brochures and advertisements highlighting the importance of British membership. Those propaganda campaigns were also spread within schools, universities, local authorities and businesses. Prime Minister Heath appeared on television in the summer of 1970 to cover the campaign Propaganda for membership (7) moreover, the Government of Edward Heath wanted to avoid the obstacles that led to the stalled negotiations, as in previous negotiations, and William Nield, Secretary of the Cabinet and Chairman of the Official European Commission, wrote to Heath "The longer the negotiations are prolonged, the less likely they are to succeed, the less the will to succeed and the stronger the positions, the multiplier the differences and the entire negotiations are tarnished by the reputation of the British people. (8)

Alec Douglas Hume travelled on June 30, 1970 with Anthony Barber to the Belgian capital of Brussels to arrange a timetable for the resumption of negotiations, the French becoming more receptive to British membership (9). But negotiations were initially going slow, particularly in 1970 because of the economic problems between Britain and the Commonwealth, including the low level of trade between the two (10). Britain had previously relied on the Commonwealth for its trade, but after 1970 the Commonwealth had declined as a trading bloc and was looking to establish trade links with the Group's European Commission. (11), particularly since Britain was experiencing economic problems and was declining in its international economic classification, while growing and growing purchasing power and needing access to European markets, British companies began to support Britain's membership of the Group in order not to have to pay the customs tariffs internally (12)

In February 1971, the Conservative Party conducted public opinion polls on joining the group and proved that about (34%) are in favour of membership while some (54%) of Tory members have been found opposed to membership, including elderly party MPs who

(1) Ardrik Klassens, Op.Cit., P.24.

(2) Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., P.117.

(3) Rogelia Pastor-Castro and John W.Young, Op.Cit., P.150.

(4) Edward Heath, Op.Cit., P.363.

(5) Paul Gliddon, Op.Cit., P.405.

(6) Quoted in: Paul Gliddon, Op.Cit., P.406.

(7) Paul Gliddon, Op.Cit., P.406, 412.

(8) Quoted in: Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.110.

(9) Edward Heath, Op.Cit., P.363.

(10) Mark Garnett and others, British foreign policy since 1945, 1ed., Routledge, London, 2017, P.179.

(11) Rhiannon Vickers, The labour party and the world, Vol. 2, Manchester University Press, UK, 2011, P.98.

(12) Rhiannon Vickers, Op.Cit., P.98.

were afraid of losing Britain's sovereignty, should it enter the group ⁽¹⁾ and opposition leader Harold Wilson in the same month criticized Heath's negotiating policy: **The Labour Party and the British people do not accept the arrogance and divisions that force us into European society with degrading concessions... We do not accept Britain because of Heath's policy to stand on its knees begging joining Europe ⁽²⁾ with Wilson confronting the unification of his opposition Labour Party on Britain's membership of the Group ⁽³⁾**

In April 1971, 4% of voters reported that the European Economic Group (EEC) was the most pressing problem facing the country. It was difficult to understand the economic implications of Britain's accession. The Daily Express, one of the most important daily newspapers in the United Kingdom, objected. (87%) ⁽⁴⁾ In May 1971, 100 Labour MPs, challenging their leader Wilson as a supporter of joining the Ghadrian newspaper, including prominent figure Roy Jenkins and Anthony Crosland -Anthony Crosland, and plaguing the Labour Party with internal divisions in the party as a result ⁽⁵⁾

Second: Successful membership negotiations and Britain's entry into the European Economic Community 1971-1973:

Christopher Soomes first told the House of Commons 1971 that French President George Jean Pompidou wanted to meet Edward Heath in bilateral talks to settle all matters relating to membership. In addition, Heath gave orders to Soomes to organize a formal meeting with Pompidou as soon as possible, The same month he also discussed the meeting of the French Secretary-General at the Palais des Élysées ⁽⁶⁾ and Micheal Jobert. The two Presidents' main themes for consideration were the status of sterling, relations with the United States of America and the philosophy of British society. ⁽⁷⁾

Mediation between France and Britain began with Philly Brandt - Willy Brandt ⁽⁸⁾ In forgetting about 1971, Edward Heath visited, and Brendt assured Heath that he would persuade Pompidou to allow Britain to join and that the latter became committed to most of the terms of the Treaty of Rome ⁽⁹⁾ and Heath convinced members of the House of Commons in May 1971 that Europe would have equal status as the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union and that British membership was inevitably imminent ⁽¹⁰⁾

The upcoming meeting between Heath and Pompidou came when Heath travelled to Paris on May 19, 1971, and was received from Jacques Shaban Delmas-Jacques Chaban Delmas, Prime Minister of France. Heath spent the first day with British Ambassador Soames touring the Elysee Palace. ⁽¹¹⁾ Two days after his arrival in Paris, the first and most important meeting of the British membership negotiations took place on 22 May 1971, during which

⁽¹⁾Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.118.

⁽²⁾Quoted: Ahmed Mutalib Abdullah Ibrahim, Harold Wilson and his role in British foreign policy 1964-1976, unpublished master's thesis, Faculty of Education for Humanities, Anbar University, 2020. s Rights ", p. 88.

⁽³⁾ibid .p 89

⁽⁴⁾Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.119.

⁽⁵⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.115; Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.119.

⁽⁶⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.364-365.

⁽⁷⁾John W .Young , Op.Cit.P.112.

⁽⁸⁾Philly Brendt (1913-1992): German democratic socialist politician, educated at Lubeck University, He went to Norway during the Second World War to become a Norwegian citizen and worked for the underground Norwegian movement. After the Second World War, he returned to Germany and became a member of the Bundestag in 1949. He was appointed Governor of the Municipality of Berlin in 1957. However, he continued his political activity and chaired the Independent Commission on Development Issues between 1977-1979, and remained a member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1983, with well-known literature, The Plight of Coexistence (1963), Meditations and Literature (1971), People and Politics 1960-1975 (1978) and My Life in Politics (1992). For more views:

Barry Jones, Oo.Cit., P.114; Adnan Yassin Hussein Al Khazzarji, Fili Brandt and his influence on German federal policy 1913-1972, unpublished doctoral thesis, Faculty of Education for Humanities, Diyala University, 2021

⁽⁹⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.111; Bernd Rother, Willy Brandts Außenpolitik, Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden, Berlin, 2014, P.71.

⁽¹⁰⁾Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.106.

⁽¹¹⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.367.

Heath was able to convince Pompidou of his country's desire to join the European Economic Group without prejudice to France's policy of disbursing its objectives within the Group ⁽¹⁾ economic issues and constraints, including Commonwealth exports of New Zealand sugar, butter and dairy⁽²⁾. Under the terms of which the main issues of accession were agreed, including British financing of the Group's budget, Pompidou assured Heath that the French delegation would not demand a heavy financial contribution on the British balance of payments and set its contribution to the Group's budget ⁽³⁾ At 8.64%, this was a reasonable proportion of the British Government,⁽⁴⁾ and this agreement was the greatest diplomatic victory for Heath. As Pompidou found during this meeting, the British strongly intended to join the group wholeheartedly and the main motive for Pompidou's rejection that the British were not agents of other powers or hidden hands of the United States of America within the group, Especially after the world press described Britain as being the Trojan horse that the United States enters the European arena ⁽⁵⁾

The talks lasted eleven hours between Presidents Heath and Pompidou, the latter announcing his delight at Britain's commitment to join the Group, stressing the preservation of the interests of the Commonwealth States after Britain joined. Heath achieved what eluded McMillan and Wilson today. Douglas Hare, Heath's political secretary, commented that the May 1971 meeting was Prime Minister Edward He ⁽⁶⁾ meeting with Pompidou, stating: "During the two days that our talks continued, they took place in a friendly atmosphere, First and foremost, I would like to thank President George Jean Pompidou for his warm welcome to me. We have been able to examine the future nature of the Group's institutions and the place of Europe in the world, and we have reached a close consensus on the different aspects of our continent. We have always believed that Great Britain must be part of this European entity to ensure the future peace of Europe. Secondly, I think it's only in this way that Britain can get a lot of economic benefits. Finally, through this integration, I believe that we play an influential role in the outside world. the responsibilities inherited by France and Great Britain in this world, Mr. President, we will intend to discharge our responsibilities fully. ⁽⁷⁾

As Jeffrey Rippon in charge of the negotiations stated: "Heath informed the House of Commons in May 1971 that he agreed with Pompidou that the Group's cooperation mechanism requires unanimous decision-making when the vital national interests of each member are at risk" ⁽⁸⁾ and the remaining problems of British membership were dealt with at ministerial meetings in June 1971, as Rippon ended final arrangements for Britain's entry into all EEC institutions ⁽⁹⁾ However, a month after the meeting, the first problems arose, namely the settlement of the British budget in June 1971, which suffered from the imbalance, whereby the net British contributions to the group's budget, which would be substantially greater than the 1970s budget, were calculated, resulting in the failure of the Heath Government to persuade the Six States; Because his country would need more time to adapt

⁽¹⁾Ardrik Klassens, Op.Cit., P.23.

⁽²⁾Daniel Mockli, European foreign policy during the cold war heath, Brandt, Pompidou and the short dream of political unity, I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd, London, 2006, P.49.

⁽³⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.372

⁽⁴⁾Andrew Geddes, The European union and british politics, 1ed, Palgrave macmillan, UK, 2004, P.69.

⁽⁵⁾Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.110.

⁽⁶⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.112.

⁽⁷⁾Qouted in: Declararation de Edward heath (Paris, 21 mai 1970) Legende: En visite a Paris le 21 mai 1971, edward heath, premier minister britannique, dresse le bilan de ses conversations avec le president francais geoges pompidou et se felicite de la bonne entente les deux pays: http://www.evce.eu/obj/declaration_de_edward_heath_paris_21_mai_1971.

⁽⁸⁾Qouted in: Stephen Wall, A stanger in europe Britain and the eu from thatcher to blair, 1ed, Oxford university press Inc., New york, 2008, P.14.

⁽⁹⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.112.

to membership ⁽¹⁾ the Heath Government published a White Paper in July 1971, in which it codified the negative aspects of British membership as follows ⁽²⁾

1. Food prices are estimated to rise by 15% over the six years because agricultural policy has contained a system of preference for society, meaning Britain will not be able to shop from cheaper food markets.
2. Increasing food prices will contribute to increasing the cost of living by 3% over the six years.
3. British contributions to the European Commission's budget will amount to Pound30m annually, making Britain the second largest after West Germany, as well as entering a financial crisis.

However, Heath remained determined to complete the accession commissioners, concluding his delegations with members of the European Commission in the House of Commons in October 1971: "When the House of Commons tonight supports the question of accession, millions of people around the world will rejoice, because we have taken our rightful place in Europe. ⁽³⁾ Many Conservative MPs liked the principles of the group and many supported Heath's view that accession has important political and economic benefits. "I think it would be in Britain's interest to join the European Economic Community under whatever conditions. ⁽⁴⁾

By 27 October 1971, British membership negotiator Jeffrey Rippon was able to find out the full implications of British joining the group, and Rippon agreed with the group's European Commission members on the most important exports between his country and the European Common Group market, including milk, meat and eggs, but some thorny issues such as the export of New Zealand dairy and butter and West Indies sugar remained. ⁽⁵⁾ New Zealand relies heavily on British markets to export New Zealand dairy and butter to these markets, with New Zealand's 1970 exports exceeding Canada and Australia's by (34%), afraid that EEC exports would compete with New Zealand's exports on British markets, As such, New Zealand's exports will not have markets for the disposal of New Zealand dairy and butter products. On Commonwealth sugar exports, Heath was also able to conclude an agreement with Commonwealth States to ensure that sugar exports had access to markets for their disposal. and convinced them of the success of British membership, but French apprehension about British membership continued, as Pompidou remained fearful of making sterling a reserve currency. Moreover, the European Monetary Economic Union (EMU) was calling for the consolidation of the value of member countries' currencies. This is not possible since sterling was experiencing volatility in the light of Britain's internal economic conditions. However, Heath made promises to Pompidou that he would strive to maintain a steady value for the pound⁽⁶⁾.

Heath neglected the parliamentary referendum of MPs. The results of the House of Commons vote on 28 October 1971 showed the issue of party debates over Britain's accession. The Heath Government won a majority of thirty-six votes in favour, two hundred and forty-four against and some thirty-nine Tory MPs opposed joining. ⁽⁷⁾ Also in 1971,

⁽¹⁾Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.113.

⁽²⁾Andrew Geddes, Op.Cit., P.70.

⁽³⁾Quoted in: Geir.k.Almlid, Op.Cit., P.118.

⁽⁴⁾Quoted in: Ibid., P.118.

⁽⁵⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.111.

⁽⁶⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit., P.373-374.

⁽⁷⁾Mark Garnett and others, Op.Cit., P. 177.

Enoch Powell delivered a series of speeches against Britain's entry and confirmed that British sovereignty was endangered. As Britain entered the group, Powell was the first anti-accession Conservative, as well as opposition to up to 60 members of the Conservative right. ⁽¹⁾ The Heath Government secured the House of Lords' support for British membership by an overwhelming majority, with four hundred and fifty-one votes with accession and fifty-eight against. ⁽²⁾

Labour members' position on the issue of accession was shared by many Labour MPs, its leader Harold Wilson, on the issue of accession, with the exception of senior Labour member George Brown, a prominent advocate of British membership ⁽³⁾ As many EEC saw it as a capital bureaucratic institution, and a few elites in Britain were supporting the issue of accession, Labour's fears were high prices and the threat membership would bring to Britain's sovereignty and the collapse of the Commonwealth economically. ⁽⁴⁾ In the 18 October 1971 vote, sixty-nine members of the Labour Party voted with accession, while 20 abstained ⁽⁵⁾ Those in favour of joining the Labour Party have been physically assaulted and pro-joining Labour member Roy Jenkins has been called a bastard, and the question of Britain joining the group has become a controversial issue for both Conservative and Labour parties. ⁽⁶⁾ Labour's opposition to accession in 1971 was not, in principle, based on terms of accession, as the Labour Party did not agree to his country's accession to the group on terms and concessions that it counted as degrading ⁽⁷⁾

Under that vote, the Government's White Paper was approved by Britain to join the group, as Heath wanted to support all British parties not only to win the vote, but to show Britain's European partners that there was strong support and strong desire to join the group ⁽⁸⁾ Pompidou promised Heath's popular referendum to his people and to the multiple British parties on the issue of membership an individual achievement by not forcing Heath's people to join, but rather by filling their will, as Philly Brendt declared: "I am convinced that the European Economic Community of Britain and Europe in general, first economically and then politically," ⁽⁹⁾ Heath expressed pleasure at the majority vote in favour of the membership: "I was comforted and delighted that the Parliament of the United Kingdom decided by a large majority that our country's destiny lay in Europe, where I spent 20 years in my parliamentary career, working for this moment. ⁽¹⁰⁾

According to this, Edward Heath arrived at the helm of a negotiating delegation on Saturday, January 22, 1972 ⁽¹¹⁾ at Millsbork Airport outside Brussels to sign Britain's EEC accession treaty and was accompanied by a delegation from all: Alec Douglas Hume, Foreign Secretary, Jeffrey Rippon, British negotiator, Con-Con O'Neil, head of the British negotiating delegation, Christopher Soames, British Ambassador to Paris, Robert Armstrong, Personal Secretary of the Prime Minister, Harold McMillan, Jeremy Thorpe, Liberal politician, and Lord George Brown, Labour ⁽¹²⁾ The British delegation arrived at the Egmont-Egmont Palace

⁽¹⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.114.

⁽²⁾Andrew Geddes, Op.Cit., P.72.

⁽³⁾Daily News Newspaper, 6 Nov. 1971.

⁽⁴⁾John W. Young , Op.Cit.P.114.

⁽⁵⁾Denis Healey, The Time of my life, 1ed., Penguin Books, UK, 1990, P.360; David Gowland and others, Op.Cit.,P.76.

⁽⁶⁾Rhiannon Vickers, Op.Cit., P.101; Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., PP.119.

⁽⁷⁾Donley T. Studlar and Jerold L.Waltman, Op.Cit., P.162; Gadsden Times Newspaper, 11 Apr.1972.

⁽⁸⁾Rhiannon Vickers, Op.Cit., P.100.

⁽⁹⁾Qouted in: Edward Heath, Op.Cit.,P.380.

⁽¹⁰⁾Qouted in: Edward Heath, Op.Cit.,P.380.

⁽¹¹⁾Andrew Geddes, Op.Cit., P.72.

⁽¹²⁾Edward Heath, Op.Cit., P.381

to begin the Treaty's signing ceremony, but upon boarding the delegation accompanied by Heath Peace leading to the Palace ⁽¹⁾ meeting room, Heath met in the discussion room with Henry Spaak ⁽²⁾ former Head of Belgium's Ministers and also met Jean Monet, the French engineer father of the European Unity. ⁽³⁾

In doing so, Heath was successful in negotiating Britain's membership of the European Group ⁽⁴⁾. The treaty known as the Treaty of Brussels, which consisted of twelve items and four schedules and which simply accepted all the previous regulations of the Group and accepted the terms of the Treaty of Rome ⁽⁵⁾, Heath delivered a speech on this occasion: "Our new talk on Europe showed that our feelings are similar, our efforts can be united, In particular, European societies are far from creating customs barriers among themselves. s East-West trade and other trade exchanges, Britain has a lot to contribute to the group, as new members of the group we will be better able to do that. Especially as Britain, through its commonwealth rings, has much to contribute to Europe. ⁽⁶⁾ Baudouin I and Queen Fabiola de Moura Argón of Belgium celebrated on this occasion and invited Heath and his negotiating delegation to a ceremonial banquet ⁽⁷⁾ and received several congratulatory cables, including one from Strasbourg Mayor Pierre Pflimlin. "I am pleased to hear your wonderful speech. Allow me to reiterate my admiration for the insight and courage of those who led Great Britain towards joining the European Economic Community. I warmly wish you success in your efforts for your country and Europe. I am also pleased to welcome you and the British delegation to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. ⁽⁸⁾

After Heath and their delegation returned to their country, I sent a telegram of thanks to the King of Belgium, in which he wrote: "I, Sir, are His Majesty's most modest servant, I would like to express my deep appreciation for your hospitality at the banquet and to receive you on the evening of the signing of the Treaty of Accession to the European Group, I will always remember this wonderful occasion. it was a great moment in my country's history. ⁽⁹⁾

Members of the European Economic Group preferred Britain's membership in principle, as they hoped Britain would have international weight, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany, which wanted to join Britain, in order to promote western unity against

⁽¹⁾A woman who did not know her identity among photographers pelted Edward Heath with ink for reasons she did not know, but the incident ended with the trial of the woman in Brussels, calling on Gaston Eskins' Prime Minister of Belgium to apologize to Edward Heath, saying: "I would like to tell you how pleased Belgium's political leaders are to welcome the strengthening of our friendship ties with the Great British Nation to which we owe eternal gratitude, I believe our friendship is too great to be spoiled by a bottle of ink." For more views:

N.A., PREM 15\881, Document of british prime minister Edward heath's visit to Brussels to sign the treaty of accession to the European economic community, Prime minister's personal message, Brussels, February 7th 1972 , P.2; Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.382; Opinion (newspaper), Dr. P, 25 February 1972

⁽²⁾Henry Spack (1899-1972): a Belgian politician, who obtained a degree in jurisprudence at the University of Brussels in 1921, whose political career appeared to be a socialist member of the House of Representatives in 1932, who had efforts to keep Belgium out of World War II but for no avail and after his country surrendered to Germany in May 1940 went into exile first in Paris and then in London. He also helped to draft the Charter of the United Nations and served as the first President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946. He was a brilliant speaker and defender of Europe's integration. He became President of the Council of Europe in 1949, with an important role in the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Economic Community and chaired its General Assembly between 1952-1954. He was also appointed Second Secretary-General of NATO in 1956 and served as Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium between 1961-1965. For more views:

A.B.C,CLIO, Encyclopedia ,Op.Cit.,P.P.1908-1910.

⁽³⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.383.

⁽⁴⁾Joaquin Roy and Aimee Kanner, The A to Z of the European union,led, Scarecrow press, Inc., USA, 2006, P.457.

⁽⁵⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.116.

⁽⁶⁾Qouted in: N.A., PREM 15\881, Document of british prime minister Edward heath's visit to Brussels to sign the treaty of accession to the European economic community,Prime minister speech at the signature of the treaty of the accession in brussels on 22 January 1972, P. 5

⁽⁷⁾Edward Heath, Op.Cit.,P.382.

⁽⁸⁾Qouted in: N .A., PREM 15\881, Document of british prime minister Edward heath's visit to Brussels to sign the treaty of accession to the European economic community, A massage from the mayor of Strasbourg Pierre Pflimlin to the british prime minister Edward heath, February 7th 1972,P.5.

⁽⁹⁾Qouted in: N .A., PREM 15\881, Document of british prime minister Edward heath's visit to Brussels to sign the treaty of accession to the European economic community, A massage from british prime minister Edward heath to his majesty the king of Belgium,N.D., N.P.

the Soviet Union, and Britain would be an important trading partner, as it could raise the Group's budget, so Germany wanted to help Britain join. ⁽¹⁾ France, led by George Jean Pompidou, was more favourable to Britain's membership than de Gaulle's position in the 1960s, particularly after being afraid of German domination of the Group States. Moreover, Chancellor Philly Brendt's policy known as the Westpolitik ⁽²⁾ Growing international political aspirations for Germany, so Pompidou's British membership will provide a parallel weight to German hegemony in the group⁽³⁾ and France's refusal to apply for British membership would make Anglo-French relations more difficult, as could never be reformed. Edward Heath's good relationship with Pompidou was the decisive element of Britain's accession ⁽⁴⁾

Heath realized after signing the accession treaty in January 1972 that the task was not over Having granted his Government a transitional period until the Treaty's formal entry into force after one year and his Government had to pass the draft Treaty to Parliament for approval, The first reading took place on the 25th of January 1972 and the second reading took place between the 15th and 17th of February The third reading was on July 13 of the same year and despite the Labour Party's opposition to the draft treaty, Passed with parliamentary approval, the draft treaty received three hundred and one votes against two hundred and eighty-four opposing votes. The Royal Assent took place on 17 October 1972 ⁽⁵⁾.

The question of Britain's accession seemed to encourage other countries to join the group, with the same month that Britain signed the accession treaty both the Republic of Ireland and Denmark the accession treaty to the European Economic Community ⁽⁶⁾.

Heath was invited to the Group Summit in October 1972, held in Paris, along with the new members of the Republic of Ireland and Denmark The Summit affirmed that the noble objective is the project of establishing the European Monetary Union, Philly Brendt also agreed to establish a European Regionale Development Fund to rectify monetary imbalances within the group that Britain could benefit from to resolve its economic crises and the Development Fund promised an important addition to the European Monetary Union ⁽⁷⁾.

The transitional period of the treaty expired and Britain officially joined the group on Monday, January 1, 1973 ⁽⁸⁾ Gallup reported the same month that about (38%) support Britain's membership in the group (36%) who oppose joining ⁽⁹⁾, and Heath boasted about

⁽¹⁾Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., P.108.

⁽²⁾Ostpolitik: Philly Brendt's policy was known as the policy of convergence with the East, during which he adopted a new policy vis-à-vis the countries of Eastern Europe, based on the recognition of political rights and territorial status that cannot be changed through force or isolation. For more information: Mohammed Ahmed Zeidan Khalaf, German reunification and its implications 1989-1994, unpublished doctoral thesis, Ibn Rushd School of Education for Humanities, Baghdad University, 2020, p. 54; Mohamed Ahmed Zidan Khalaf and Nagam Salam Ibrahim, Political Variables in Eastern Europe in 1989, and their impact on the internal conditions in democratic Germany, Professor's Journal, Baghdad University, No. 2, 2020, p. 2.

⁽³⁾Geir.k. Almlid, Op.Cit., P.109.

⁽⁴⁾Andrew Geddes, Op.Cit., P.71.

⁽⁵⁾Edward Heath, Op.Cit., P.382.

⁽⁶⁾Keith Robbins, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, The Christian church 1900-2000, 1ed, Oxford University press, Inc., New york, 2008, P. 343; Brendan Simms, Europe, The struggle for supremacy from 1453 to the present, 1ed, Basic Books, New york, 2013, P.455.

⁽⁷⁾John W.Young, Op.Cit.P.118.

⁽⁸⁾Donley T.Studlar and Jerold L.Waltman, Op.Cit., P.162; David Hall, Emerging from an entrenched colonial economy, New Zealand primary production, Britain and the EEC, 1945-1975, 1ed, Palgrave macmillan, London, 2017, P.43; The times of India Newspaper, 2 Jan. 1973, P.9.

⁽⁹⁾David Gowland and others, Op.Cit., P.75.

Britain joining the group because he saw the latter becoming a global trading bloc comparable to the United States of America ⁽¹⁾ Britain's accession to the Group promised Heath the most remarkable achievement as Prime Minister and was seen as the real beginning of a peaceful world ⁽²⁾.

Based on British membership becoming effective, Britain changed the value of its old currency to decimal currency, becoming 20 shillings equivalent to one pound, and a hundred new pence was added to the pound ⁽³⁾ That is, in forgetting about 1973, Britain began to reduce its customs tariffs with other members of the Group as a result of the country's economic crises. The European Monetary Cooperation Fund, formally launched at the October 1972 summit, was formally established in the same month. (Snake Principle) in order to maintain a certain value of the currency among the Group's countries But that was very difficult because Britain could not abide by the principle, The value of the pound was unstable and the Treasury had confidence in Europe's efforts to arrange the value of the currency, Heath rushed out a white paper on July 7 1973 s trade ", in which it was recognized that the Common Agricultural Policy would increase food prices to the detriment of the trade of Commonwealth States ⁽⁴⁾.

Heath hoped that once Britain entered the group, he would be able to make money from the European Regional Aid Fund to solve all of Britain's economic problems ⁽⁵⁾ But the opposite happened, as Britain's entry into the Group coincided with the expiration of the long economic growth of the Group countries, the clouds of global recession on Britain's skies and the Western world as a result of rising oil prices accelerated following the October 1973 crisis ⁽⁶⁾. In particular, when Arab oil producers were forced to raise their prices, the European Economic Community's membership failed to positively reverse Britain's economic wealth, It got worse when Brentd stopped paying for the Regional Development Fund. that Heath hoped to take advantage of, to save his country from the economic crises it had resolved s oil resources ", which called for the monopolization of the newly discovered oil resources in the North Sea and their non-participation with the rest of the Group, Instead of strengthening Britain economically, the European Economic Community (EEC) and vice versa, the two fell into a chronic economic and political recession ⁽⁷⁾.

The European Council agreed to convene the Copenhagen Summit in December 1973 ⁽⁸⁾ Because the European Economic Community's solidarity is breaking down as a result of the economic pressures it has experienced, As a result of the October war and monetary inflation, four uninvited Arab countries, Algeria, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, attended to discuss the damage of the October war and the future of the Middle East. European Council members decided to hold European Council meetings three times a year ⁽⁹⁾. Heath described the summit: "It was the worst summit I ever attended ⁽¹⁰⁾ and the

⁽¹⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.117.

⁽²⁾Ardrik Klassens, Op.Cit.,P.25.

⁽³⁾Tim Healey, The 1970s, Picture history of the 20th Century, 1ed., Franklin Watts, London, 2004,P.6.

⁽⁴⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit.P.113,118.

⁽⁵⁾John W.Young , Op.Cit. P.113.

⁽⁶⁾Andrew Geddes, Op.Cit., P.72; Edward Heath: Bachelor of Britain, Foreign Office – Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Diplomat Magazine, No. 25, October 2005

⁽⁷⁾John W.Young, Op.Cit.P.119.

⁽²⁾ Document of relations of the united states, 1969-1976, Vol.E-15, Part2, Documents on western Europe, 1973-1976, Message from british prime minister heath to president Nixon , London, 4 Sep. 1973, 1240z.

⁽⁹⁾Edward Heath,Op.Cit.,P.393.

⁽¹⁰⁾Qouted in: Stephen Wall, Reluctant european, 1ed., Oxford university Press, United kingdom, 2020, P.122.

first year of Britain ended with the European group with bad confrontations, particularly the 1973 oil crisis. ⁽¹⁾ The European Economic Community has lost its glamour, worse and worse, and has lost Jean Monet's philosophy, which stipulates that the Group exists in order to find common solutions to the common problems of its member States, Each Member State was quick to seek its own solutions for unemployment and inflation. The year 1974 was bad for Europe in general, with Pompidou departed on the second of forgetting 1974 after a long epilepsy with cancer and Heath and Philly Brendt both resigning from their positions. After these three had the greatest effort in expanding the European Economic Group, ⁽²⁾ It was regrettable that Heath took office at a short time when Britain experienced rapid economic and political change. His great achievement was that he negotiated Britain's entry into the European Economic Community. ⁽³⁾ Heath was one of his country's strongest supporters of European economic integration ⁽⁴⁾.

Conclusion

- ❖ Heath's ambition was linked to Britain's accession to the European Union, where he wished to restore his political and economic role on the European continent by extending its historical role in previous centuries.
- ❖ Heath made a fundamental effort to achieve Britain's accession to the European group to convince him of Britain's entitlement and distinctive role in Europe.
- ❖ Heath was able to dispel French fears of the prospect of his country exercising support for American ambition in Europe.
- ❖ This research concludes the extent of Heath's pressure both within the House of Commons to convince them of the success of British membership in the European group.
- ❖ Despite all the pros and cons of Britain's entry into the group, Heath carried negative repercussions to achieve his country's accession to this economic bloc.
- ❖ Britain's membership of the group has been given a positive boost in joining other countries, increasing its economic growth.
- ❖ One of the results of Britain's membership in the Group was the establishment of the European Cooperation Fund (ECF) and the European Economic Group's currency tie-up (EECG), the so-called token principle of maintaining the value of the currency within the Group.

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⁽¹⁾Stephen Wall, Op.Cit., P.122.

⁽²⁾Edward Heath, Op.Cit., P.395.

⁽³⁾Keith Laybourn, *Fifty key figures in twentieth-century British politics*, 1ed., Routledge, London And New york, 2002, P.125-126.

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