

Extract from Jimmy Goldsmith's Speech in Brighton in 1996

(speaking about Maastricht and of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary and his membership of the European Movement)

“.....A few days later, he confirmed [speaking of the Foreign Secretary] his firm commitment: I quote: "The (Conservative) Government does not intend to hold a referendum on the outcome of the Maastricht negotiations”.

“A few months later, he repeated: "... I am not in favour of a referendum in a parliamentary democracy, and I do not propose to put one before the British people". In May 1994, he said: "I have not changed my mind". A few months later, he said and I quote:"... I made it clear that I did not rule out a referendum.

“A few days after that, he stated : "I have said that I am not prepared to close the door on the possibility of a referendum". On 29th June 1995, he said: "... I repeat what I have said in the House (of Commons) before: do not propose to rule a referendum out.....".

“On 1st March 1996, he said: "I have made it clear to the House on previous occasions that I believe that a referendum on joining a single European currency could be a necessary step. My position has not changed". And all this has continued during last week's Conservative Party Conference.

Our (Conservative) Foreign Secretary attacked the Labour Party saying, quote: "Ask yourself why Tony Blair and the Labour Party have refused to commit themselves to a referendum?

“Whilst we trust the people, the people can't trust Labour".

You seem to have forgotten, Mr. Foreign Secretary, that on the 17th of June this year, you said to "The Times" newspaper that you ruled out a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe That was a confirmation of what you said only a month earlier to the "Daily Telegraph".

“The Home Secretary for his part, proclaimed that Labour, "want to sell this country to a federal Europe." "We have", he added, "a simple answer to this. Never".

“Those are noble sentiments. **But how do you reconcile them with the fact that you yourself used to work as a member of the Executive Committee of the "European Movement"?** Let me remind you that it was the "European Movement" which spearheaded the selling of the country

to a federal Europe. And did so with funding from the propaganda budget of the European Commission.

“And, Home Secretary, have you forgotten that it was your government, with your support, that signed the Treaty of Maastricht which, effectively surrendered this country to a federal Europe

“Home Secretary you are reputed to be a skilled and hard working lawyer, a Queen's Counsel no less. When you voted for the Maastricht Treaty, were you unable to understand the terms of the Treaty, despite your great legal experience? Were you unable to understand that Maastricht was selling the country irreversibly into a federal Europe?

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