

ORGANIZATION

The conference was organized by the Wilton Park staff on the initiative, and with the collaboration, of the U.S. Mission to the European Communities. There were eight plenary sessions, two discussion groups with the participation of Wilton Park staff members, and an extramural session. This conference had drawn considerable attention on both sides of the Atlantic, hence participation was heavy, with particularly large delegations from the U.S. and the Federal Republic of Germany. So much attention had been paid to this conference from the U.S. and Europe that the size of the total group of delegates outgrew the capacity for accommodation by Wiston House, hence two private hotels in the vicinity had to be utilized to accommodate the more than 10 "extra" participants. A list of delegates, their affiliation and background is appended to this report as Annex 3 and participating Wilton Park Staff as Annex 4.

Certain changes have taken place in the organizational format of Wilton Park conferences in recent years, and differences are quite obvious to anyone familiar with the Wilton Park system, its intent, overall content and goals. The new format stresses shorter conferences, one working week only, exclusive of week-ends, running from late afternoon on a Monday (as opposed to, as earlier, Sunday night) until midday Friday (in contrast to early Saturday, as done previously). The two week conferences, some of which had been extraordinarily interesting, detailed and useful, are - for all purposes - out, and may probably never be seen again. Even the 40th Anniversary Conference, appropriately entitled "Germany in a Divided Europe in a Divided World" (bearing in mind Wilton Park's original mandate) will only be within the new format of a shortened version, although some additional festivities are anticipated on the following Saturday (14 December 1985).