

Sir,

I had not intended to reply to Mr Klette's intemperate attack on my article on the CCMS that you published recently. I took comfort in the fact that the analysis that moved the Secretary of the Committee to such a desperate defence must either be correct in all particulars or uncomfortably close to the truth in most. Nor do I intend to respond in depth. Anyone familiar with the Committee will see through the semantic misinterpretations and obfuscatory argumentation Mr Klette chose as the basis of his defence. Furthermore, your intelligent reader will recognize the ploy he uses to defend a difficult position – an unwarranted attack on my integrity and credibility.

I fail to understand this sudden sensitivity on the part of the Secretary. The information on which my conclusions were based was provided by dozens of people in Brussels and national capitals responsible for CCMS affairs. Over the seven years in which I have been involved with the Committee, not one of them has maintained that it could not be improved in some respect or other. Furthermore, many of the Committee's deficiencies have been documented elsewhere and earlier and have not provoked such an unjustified response. (See, for example, the *International Journal*, Spring, 1974). Finally, I consider myself a friend, not an enemy, of the CCMS, and I remain convinced that the constructive criticism of people such as myself does the Committee more of a service than the blind allegiance of persons such as Mr Klette.

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