

PRIME MINISTER

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HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Scott-Hopkins telephoned on Friday, hoping to speak to you. He delivered his message to me instead, and I put a note into you about it over the weekend. I fear that it may have got attached to something else in the box, and that you may have overlooked it.

Mr. Scott-Hopkins said that he thought that Simone Veil might not get a sufficiently large majority on the first ballot to achieve the Presidency. If she did not, there were pressures within the Conservative Group to put someone up. He was doing what he could to prevent that idea gaining ground.

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He said that proposals on the level of expenses were now being circulated, although they had not yet become public. The total worked out at something like £21,000 per Member per year, of which £14,000 was a secretarial allowance. The rest is for office expenses, divided roughly half and half between accountable expenses (paid only on evidence of expenditure) and unaccountable expenses.

Mr. Scott-Hopkins added that the Group was settling in much better than he had expected and things were going better than he had hoped overall.

I take it that you will not want to receive regular oral reports from Mr. Scott-Hopkins on what is going on in the European Parliament?

Do you want to designate someone else to be a point of first contact with Mr. Scott-Hopkins? Should it be, perhaps, the Chief Whip or Lord Carrington? I suspect that Mr. Whitelaw may have too many other preoccupations for him to do this as well, but otherwise I would have suggested him as a further possible alternative.

*He will have to have direct access to Peter Temple - Alan Giddons ref.* *M/S*

16 July 1979