



(4)

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

This brief looks complicated but in fact is dealing with the rather straightforward alternatives in para 1.

I still believe that it would be worth letting the French before the weekend that you are moving forward to seeing the President tête à tête at ~~some~~ some suitable point during the Luxembourg meeting. You have a number of points to put to him. Can I give my opposite number a ring - without attempting to make a definite appointment. Am

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COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

BRIEF FOR POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND  
PRESIDENT GISCARD AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. This brief considers two alternative hypotheses:
  - (i) that at the time of the meeting Giscard has not nominated his Commissioners;
  - (ii) we know both the French Commissioners-designate (on the assumption that if the French re-appoint Cheysson to be sure of the Development portfolio, they will also re-appoint Ortoli as vice-President).

HYPOTHESIS I:

(French Commissioner not nominated)

2. There would be two broad alternative lines for the Prime Minister to take:
  - (a) we stand pat on our position that Mr Richard is well qualified for Development and we believe he should be seriously considered for the portfolio. We would, of course, take full account of French interests (in many cases close to our own) if he got it;
  - (b) we offer the President, whomever his choice was, not to stand in his way because the French attached so much importance to the Development portfolio. In this event, the Prime Minister might wish to ask President Giscard:
    - (i) to allow the UK candidate a clear field over the French for the new Judge in the European Court of Justice;
    - (ii) to be helpful over New Zealand butter;

/(iii) to

- (iii) to undertake to bring home to the new French Commissioner for Development our dissatisfaction with the UK's present share of EDF contracts and to emphasise the desirability of the UK's getting a bigger share;
- (iv) to support Mr Richard in getting Social Affairs.

3. It is difficult to give those last four points an order of priority. Once the main point has been conceded to the French, they are under little compulsion to do much. The Judge at the ECJ is clear-cut, but the French could probably get away with little more than helpful noises over (iii) and (iv); and a substantial concession over New Zealand butter would be a difficult link to make and bring off.

HYPOTHESIS II:

(Both French Commissioners known to us by the time of the meeting)

4. Under this hypothesis the Prime Minister has three main courses of action:

- (i) If M Cheysson has been re-nominated

5. To concede that incumbents should not be disturbed and seek French concurrence (bolstering Mr Tugendhat's claim on Budget) and at the same time to seek support for Mr Richard in getting Social Affairs.

- (ii) If second French Commission not M Cheysson

6. The Prime Minister might either:

- (a) following her telephone conversation in which she had offered to 'adjust our views accordingly' speak as in Hypothesis I(b) above.

- (b) say she was sorry but that she had thought carefully about the question and did not think it would be right

/ for us

for us not to support the reasonable claims of Mr Richard given his qualifications and experience, that the French Commissioner-designate had less experience than him and the French had held the portfolio for 22 years. We had however, taken well on board the French concerns and their interests and we would make it clear to Mr Richard that it would be desirable to pay suitable attention to them.

## COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

BRIEF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S USE IN PRIVATE OR COLLECTIVE CONVERSATION AFTER THE QUESTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HAS BEEN RESOLVED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD

1. Depending on the outcome of the discussions with President Giscard there will be two alternatives:

- (i) the UK is running Mr Richard for Development since the second French Commissioner is not to be M Cheysson:

Points to Make:

- (a) his wide experience, particularly contacts with third countries at the UN;
  - (b) better qualified than French candidate;
  - (c) French have held portfolio for 22 years; time for a change;
  - (d) [for use with Italians]: we will support giving Italian Commissioner responsibility for Southern Mediterranean if they back Mr Richard on Development.
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- (ii) If we have conceded that Mr Richard will not get Development and are not pushing him, and assuming M Davignon is returning and will retain Industry:

Points to Make:

- (a) Mr Richard is well qualified with his wide experience as both an MP and a lawyer to be in charge of administering the Social Fund;
- (b) since he is a man of the centre-left he would be well placed to deal with Europe's Trade Unions;
- (c) an added benefit (and one in which Mr Richard himself believes) would be that he would be in a position to make a real contribution to the links between the

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Community and the British Labour Party, which are in a particularly delicate state.

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