

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

EHG(V)(80)14

COPY NO 1

4 June 1980

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, VENICE

12/13 JUNE 1980

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COMMISSION

Brief by Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1. A list of possible and declared candidates, together with personality notes, is attached, together with background on previous presidents and their rotation.
2. The only candidature officially declared so far has been that of Gundelach, the present Danish Commissioner, but he is now reported in the press to have withdrawn (and to want to stay on in his present job as Agriculture Commissioner). Thorn, Luxembourg Foreign Minister, is however known to want the job, though not yet an official candidate. O'Kennedy, ex Irish Foreign Minister, has told Lord Carrington in confidence that he is interested and he may be put forward as an official Irish candidate either as President or Commissioner. None of these candidates are likely to make good Presidents nor to be satisfactory from the British point of view.
3. There are increasingly strong rumours that the Italians will make a bid for the job and that their candidate will be Pandolfi, presently Minister of Finance. Pandolfi would be a good choice from our point of view (the Chancellor of the Exchequer is in favour). There has been some speculation that the Italian candidate might in the end turn out to be Colombo, presently Foreign Minister, rather than Pandolfi. This seems to us less likely, but not impossible. It will be for the Italians to decide which is a candidate. We would also want to support a Colombo candidature.

CONFIDENTIAL

/4.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. If either of these two Italian names emerge they are likely to be strong candidates. If they do not, it will be in our interest to work for a postponement of the decision on the grounds that more time and a wider choice is needed in order to avoid the risk of having to oppose, for example, an emerging consensus in favour of Thorn. The French, who have told us that they are in no hurry over reaching a decision (though they acknowledge that Pandolfi would be a candidate 'meriting attention') could be helpful in securing a postponement in such circumstances, particularly since Giscard is known to have reservations about Thorn. A private word with the French might therefore be desirable if events develop in such a way that postponement of a decision would be the best we could hope for. The possibility of a further two year term for Jenkins could be another delaying tactic although that will be more attractive for the Germans than for the French.

5. It will be important for us to prevent any Member State establishing at this stage a pre-emptive right to any specific Portfolio or Portfolios in the new Commission (eg. by the French to the Development Portfolio, which they have held uninterruptedly since the founding of the Community and which we will probably want to try to wrest from them). Attempts to establish such pre-emptive rights could be made as part of the bargaining about the Commission Presidency. We should ensure that it is impossible after Venice for any Member State to claim that 'understandings' had been reached there about the distribution of Commission Portfolios.

BACKGROUND

Candidates for President of Commission

Declared, with Government backing (but now reported to have withdrawn)
GUNDELACH (Denmark) - Agriculture Commissioner

Undeclared, but running hard
THORN (Luxembourg) - Foreign Minister

Mentioned more than once
JENKINS (UK) - President of Commission
COLOMBO (Italy) - Foreign Minister
BARRE (France) - Prime Minister
PANDOLFI (Italy) - Minister of Finance

CONFIDENTIAL

/Mentioned

CONFIDENTIAL

Mentioned

TINDEMANS (Belgium) - Former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
An Irish candidate, probably O'Kennedy - ex Irish Foreign Minister

Mentioned but not runners at this stage

Van de STEE (Netherlands) - Minister of Finance

ZIJLSTRA (' ') - Former Minister, President Netherlands
Bank since 1967

BIESHEUVEL (' ') - Former Prime Minister, one of Three Wise
Men

FITZGERALD (Ireland) - Former Foreign Minister, leader of Opposition

Previous Presidents

HALLSTEIN (Germany) - Jan 1958-June 1967

REY (Belgium) - July 1967-June 1970

MALFATTI (Italy) - July 1970-March 1972

MANSHOLD (Netherlands) - March 1972-December 1972

ORTOLI (France) - Jan 1973-December 1976

JENKINS (UK) - Jan 1977-[December 1980]

Rotation of Presidency

1. When the Communities were established, there was no general principle of rotation. Under French pressure during discussion in 1966-7 of implementation of the 1965 Merger Treaty, which established a single Council and Commission, it was agreed that the Presidency should rotate every four years (from 1967): the Treaty specifies only that the President (and Vice-Presidents) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years which may be renewed.

2. For this purpose, the Benelux are considered as one country, while Denmark and Ireland have also been considered as one country since enlargement. The smaller states are arguing that it is their turn to provide the President, either from the Benelux - and the Netherlands do not consider that Mansholt's short Presidency rules them out - or Ireland/Denmark.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

4 June 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

EHG(V)(80) 14

ANNEX

GUNDELACH, FINN OLAV (DANISH)

Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries since January 1977, and Member since 1973.

Born 1925. Read economics at the University of Aarhus. Vice-President of the Danish National Union of Students, 1947-49. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1951-55. Danish Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, 1955-59. Director of GATT, responsible for commercial policy, 1959-61. Sub Director-General of GATT, 1961. Deputy Director-General of GATT (Kennedy Round), 1962-67. Head of the Danish Mission to the European Communities, 1967-72.

Gundelach is one of the more able of the 13 Commissioners. He is adept at mastering complicated dossiers and is a persuasive advocate. He is sometimes criticised for having the attitude of a civil servant rather than a politician and some claim that he does not possess the "political feel" of his predecessor as Agricultural Commissioner (Mr Kardinois). He is unpredictable, sometimes devious and seems unable or unwilling to delegate.

Speaks very good English, which is his working language; competent French and German. Married; 2 children.

CONFIDENTIAL

THORN GASTON, GCVO (1976), GCMG (1972) (LUXEMBOURG)

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade, the National Economy, the Middle Classes and Justice (Democrat).

Born 1928. Deported briefly as a schoolboy to Germany during the Nazi occupation. Educated Luxembourg, Montpellier (where his father was employed as a railway engineer), Lausanne and Paris. Doctor of Law. Practised at the Luxembourg Bar, and was active in Luxembourg and international student activities. 1959 elected Deputy and Member of the European Assembly; subsequently Secretary-General of its Liberal Group; 1961-4 Luxembourg Municipal Council; 1961 to the present, President of the Democratic Party. 1969-74 Minister of Foreign Affairs. 1974 Prime Minister of the country's first Socialist-Liberal coalition. President since 1970 of the Liberal International and President of the Fédération of Liberal Parties of the EEC. President of the General Assembly of the United Nations 1975/76. He took over responsibility for Economic Affairs and the Middle Classes in September 1977, having dropped his Ministerial responsibility for Sport and having appointed a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, M Hamilius (qv), to assist him.

After the 1979 elections, it soon became clear that he would not be able to reform a coalition himself, and there was some doubt whether, in view of his personal resentment at the way in which the Christian Social Party had waged their campaign, he would be prepared to serve again under M Werner (qv). He stood for election as Liberal candidate for the Presidency of the European Parliament, but having failed to achieve this returned to Government with six portfolios.

Intelligent, quick-witted and hard-working, he is an able politician with a considerable flair for public relations. His personal appeal was largely responsible for the Democrats success in the 1974 election when his personal vote was the largest in the whole country; he again achieved a considerable personal vote in the 1979 national and European elections.

He found the task of combining the job of Prime Minister with three other portfolios, as well as many international functions, very tiring. But in spite of lapses through tiredness, impatience or frustration, he performed pretty well in international meetings. He may hope to leave Government in a year or two (eg for the Commission).

Good English and German. Perfect French. Lively and attractive (an outstandingly funny mimic) in what private life he allows himself. But he finds it increasingly difficult to stop and unwind and he pushes himself very hard. After high blood pressure during a visit to Washington in 1975, he became rather worried about his health, but this does not diminish his nervous energy. In private he sometimes seems unduly waspish and critical, but this may be simply the result of his continually driving his mind into activity.

His wife Liliane (whom he met when he was President, and she Secretary, of the Luxembourg Students Union and married in 1957), is an intelligent and capable free-lance journalist, who contributes frequent articles on current social and cultural issues to the local press, and who holds particularly strong views on women's rights. She shares her husband's intense interest in politics, but is a good deal more relaxed. She too speaks good English. An avid traveller, and they have a holiday home in Spain.

They have one son born in 1963.

CONFIDENTIAL

JENKINS, RT HON ROY (BRITISH) {

President of the European Commission since January 1977.

Born 1920. Educated Balliol College, Oxford (First Class Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, 1941). Served in Royal Artillery (Captain), 1942-6. Labour MP for Central Southwark, 1948-50 and for Stechford Division of Birmingham, 1950-76. Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, 1949-50; Minister of Aviation, 1964-5; Home Secretary, 1965-7; Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1967-70; Deputy Leader, Labour Party, 1970-2; Home Secretary, 1974-6.

Chairman of the Fabian Society 1957-8. Served on the Executive Committees of the Federal Union, Britain in Europe Movement, Common Market Campaign, and President of the United Kingdom Council of the European Movement and of the Labour Committee for Europe. Charlemagne Prize 1972; Schuman Prize, 1972.

Married; two sons, one daughter.

28 COLOMBO, Onorevole Emilio (Italy)

President of the European Parliament (Christian Democrat).

Born in 1920 in Potenza (Basilicata), which he has represented in Parliament as a Christian Democrat since 1946. Doctor of Law. Like Andreotti (qv), another protege of De Gasperi, he became a junior Minister at 28; Minister of Agriculture 1955-58, and for Foreign Trade 1958-59. As Minister for Industry in the following three years he was responsible for organising the nationalisation of the electricity industry (a watershed in Italian politics). He was concurrently in charge of relations with the EEC and led the Italian delegation in the first British entry negotiations. Minister of the Treasury without a break from 1963-70 and, together with Carli (qv) overcame more than one economic crisis, and successfully defended the lira.

Prime Minister of a centre-left government from August 1970 to February 1972. His task was made difficult by intense squabbling within the Christian Democrat party, aggravated by his own efforts to put through needed reforms, and by the Socialist overtures to the Communists. Colombo's position became untenable when the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, though parties in the same coalition government, supported different candidates in the presidential election at the end of 1971. Resigned February 1972.

Colombo returned to the Treasury in Andreotti's single party Christian Democrat government, February-June 1972, but occupied the comparatively unimportant post of Minister without Portfolio for relations with the UN during Andreotti's second government. Colombo returned to a senior post, that of Minister of Finance, when Rumor formed his government in July 1973. He once more took over the Treasury in March 1974, remaining there until the General Election in June 1976. Mr Roy Jenkins tried to interest him in joining the Commission, but he declined. Elected President of the European Parliament in March 1977.

Colombo is a devout Catholic. Unmarried, he is said to be a lay Franciscan who has taken a vow of celibacy. A handsome, highly intelligent and hard working man with quiet sense of humour. He is a good speaker. Beneath his gentle exterior, he is a capable politician, especially in his limited area of the Mezzogiorno. At the same time, his lack of a real power base was probably his own undoing as Prime Minister. He gives the impression (eg at a lunch given by the Ambassador for Mr Edward Heath in April 1978) that he does not consider himself by any means finished on the Italian political scene. He runs a small faction in the Christian Democrat party which is nominally allied with Andreotti's, but, in general, he takes a neutral stand in internal party squabbles. He appears to suffer from catarrh of a rather pronounced kind which makes him restless and twitchy.

Colombo has been a good friend of Britain, which he has often visited, once in June 1971 as Prime Minister. Speaks good French but scarcely any English. He likes music and collects old silver.

CONFIDENTIAL

12. BARRE, RAYMOND (FRANCE)

Prime Minister.

Born 1924 in Réunion. Professor at Caen, then Paris. Director of Economic Research at the National Institute of Political Sciences since 1958. First entered government in the cabinet of M Jeanneney (Minister of Industry 1959-62). 1967-72, French Vice-President of the Brussels Commission, with responsibility for economic and financial affairs. Appointed member of the General Council of the Bank of France in 1973. His first Ministerial post in Giscard's Government was as Minister of Foreign Trade from January 1976 until August of the same year when he replaced Chirac as Prime Minister.

As an economist, Barre has been more concerned with teaching than thinking. His main work on political economy (published in 1956) has become the basic text-book for French universities. He is an economic liberal, but a monetary disciplinarian. Although opposed to protectionism and in favour of market forces, he admits the need for some government intervention.

His entry into politics is less sudden than it seems. He was used by successive French governments in the 1960s as a "wise man", before his first Ministerial appointment in 1976. But it is true that he has never been elected to anything, and he sometimes shows distaste for the wheeling and dealing side of politics. His first government (from August 1976 to March 1977) was marked mainly by the introduction of the "Barre Plan" for economic recovery. His no-nonsense approach seemed to go down well in the country, and his stock rose. However he inevitably became caught up in feuding between the Gaullists and other members of the Government Majority, and the Paris Mairie fiasco, the setbacks in the municipal elections, and the delay of economic recovery have punctured his reputation to some extent. Nevertheless, in his second government the man Giscard has described as the "best economist in France" is sticking to his guns, both economically and in the running battle with Chirac over the organisation of the Government Majority. He did well in a major televised debate against Mitterrand, showing superior economic grasp and an unexpected pugnacity.

Barre has a firm, somewhat professorial, manner, and his political style is closer to that of Pompidou than Giscard. Despite his participation in the difficult UK accession negotiations, Barre feels no rancour towards us. He admires our efforts to put our economic house in order, though he observes them critically. He is at least as firm in his defence of French interests as other French politicians.

He is married to a pleasant wife of Hungarian descent; they have two boys. He speaks good English.

CONFIDENTIAL

90 PANDOLFI, Onorevole Filippo Maria (ITALY)

Minister of the Treasury (Christian Democrat).

Born 1927 in Bergamo. Degree in philosophy. Began career in business and first elected to Parliament in May 1968. Specialised in Treasury and financial matters. Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Finance (the tax-gathering Ministry) during Moro's 4th and 5th Governments (November 1974 to July 1976), and Minister of Finance in the 3rd Andreotti Government (July 1976 to March 1978). Promoted to succeed Stamatii (qv) in the more international job of Minister of the Treasury on the formation of Andreotti's 4th Government in March 1978.

Has a reputation as a technician, and of someone who works hard as a Minister rather than spending his time politicking. A protege of Visentini (qv) who, though a Republican, asked to have Pandolfi as his junior Minister when Visentini became Minister of Finance in 1974. He claims that the two of them worked a twelve-hour day for months, putting some order into Italian indirect taxation system. A man determined to achieve tangible administrative results, a rarity among Italian politicians.

Reads English newspapers assiduously, speaks some English.

Married: at least one daughter, likes to visit England on holiday.

CONFIDENTIAL

155 TINDEMANS, LEO (Belgium)

Prime Minister. CVP Deputy for Antwerp since 1961.

Born at Zwijndrecht in 1922. Studied at Ghent and Louvain and attended Dr Kissinger's "International Seminar" at Harvard in 1962. Became a Journalist briefly, then a civil servant in the Ministry of Agriculture before entering politics to become one of the more active CVP Deputies. Has always shown an interest in international affairs, particularly in Europe. National Secretary of the PSC/CVP, 1958-66.

Already well-known as a moderate Fleming, he was appointed Minister of Community Affairs by Eyskens in 1968. In this job he was very much in the public eye as the main architect of the constitutional reform achieved by the Government of 1970.

Appointed Minister for Agriculture and the Middle Classes by Eyskens in 1972. Made no secret of the fact that he hoped to succeed Harmel as Foreign Minister in 1973, but in the fighting for portfolios lost to Van Elsandé. Instead became one of the two Vice-Premiers, with specific responsibility for the Budget. During the election campaign of February 1974, the CVP drew heavily on his credit, building him up as the one man who could lead the country. When subsequently he came to form his Government, this reputation proved mildly embarrassing. Nevertheless, his standing as an honest, conscientious and moderate Minister survived the long struggle to create a coalition, and he ended 1974 with a greatly improved standing in the country. His first year in office was generally successful. At home he managed to launch a moderate programme of regionalisation, thus (at least temporarily) clearing an impasse which had obstructed the three previous governments. He was less successful in the increasingly difficult economic atmosphere on 1975 and 1976.

By dismissing, in March 1977, his two RW Ministers, and shortly afterwards dissolving Parliament without allowing the customary vote of no confidence, Tindemans laid himself open to accusations that he had acted unconstitutionally. But he emerged from the subsequent elections with even greater credit and his success as "formateur" in concluding a community pact, and in forming a government which includes such diverse elements as the Socialists, the VU and PDF, was an immense and historic achievement.

Tindemans played a vital role during the following 14 months which proved necessary to reach agreement on legislation to implement the Community Pact. But he found the task of keeping such a disparate coalition together an exhausting one, and his health inevitably suffered. He had a near-collapse in March 1978, and although he recovered quickly, he has since displayed less of his customary lightness of touch. When in June 1978 the parties of the coalition failed to reach agreement on measures to tackle Belgium's large and growing deficit, Tindemans promptly offered the Government's resignation to the King, without informing either his Ministers or his party. Although he was persuaded by the King to remain as Prime Minister, and succeeded in patching up an agreement, his unusual if not unconstitutional behaviour has made him less trusted by his Cabinet and by his party. There is much speculation that Tindemans will be tempted to bow out of Belgian politics in time to stand for the 1979 elections to the European Parliament. (He has been President of the European People's Party since its inception in July 1976.) He has denied this, and his strong sense of duty will probably keep him at his post as long as he feels the country needs him. Certainly there is no-one of his stature to replace him.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

111 STEE, ALPHONS P J M M van der (CDA) (NETHERLANDS)

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries since 1973 and Minister for the Netherlands Antilles.

Born 1928. Studied law at Catholic University, Nijmegen. A tax consultant 1956-71.

Chairman, Arnhem Branch, Catholic People's Party (KVP) 1959-65. National Chairman of the KVP 1968-71.

Elected to the First (upper) Chamber in 1971. State Secretary for Finance in the Biesheuvel and den Uyl Cabinets 1971-73.

In November 1973 he became Minister of Agriculture in place of Mr Brouwer, who had resigned through ill-health. Because of his relative lack of agricultural experience, he was not the first choice of the farming community. But he has learned his job quickly and has played a prominent part in Community discussions, often crossing swords with British Ministers of Agriculture, though retaining good personal relations with them.

The only Minister of the den Uyl Government to retain his portfolio in the van Agt Cabinet, he was (rather surprisingly) given responsibility for the Netherlands Antilles in addition.

He has a sociable manner and is a competent negotiator.

Married with three sons and a daughter.

Speaks good English.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

141 ZIJLSTRA, DR JELLE (CDA) (NUTREKAD 51)

President, Netherlands Bank since 1967.

Born 1918. Studied economics at Rotterdam University. Professor of Economics, Free University of Amsterdam, 1948-52 and 1963-66. AKP Minister for Economic Affairs 1952-59 and Minister of Finance 1959-63.

Declined Ministerial Office after the 1963 elections, but became Prime Minister of a caretaker government from November 1966 to February 1967, during which time he took firm measures to control the Dutch economy. Prepared the ground for the formation of a government after the General Elections but refused to head it himself and, despite considerable pressure, withdrew finally from politics in May 1967.

Widely respected, and the man most often spoken of as the ideal Christian Democrat Prime Minister. But he remains adamant in his refusal to return to the political era.

He has an outgoing character, always ready to speak freely about his views and problems. A small rather birdlike man with a ready laugh, he enjoys social life and is quick to make friends. He is nevertheless one of the most influential men on the economic/financial scene.

Married with five children.

Speaks perfect English.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

19 BIESHEUVEL, MR BAREND W (ARI) (NETHERLANDS)

Former Prime Minister. Chairman of the Realm Working Group on the future of the Netherlands Antilles, and one of the "Three Wise Men", commissioned to report on the implications of EEC enlargement.

Born Haarlemmerliede 1920. The sixth child of a rich farmer, whose family profited from the development of Amsterdam airport. Studied law at Free University, Amsterdam. Secretary for Foreign Relations, Federation of Agriculture, 1947-52. General Secretary, Netherlands Farmers and Gardeners Union 1952-59, President 1959-63. President, International Federation of Agricultural Producers in 1961. Member, Second Chamber, 1957-63.

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Deputy Prime Minister in the Marijnen Cabinet 1963-65 and also under Dr Zijlstra and Dr Cals. Tried unsuccessfully to form a government after the 1967 general elections. Appointed Prime Minister of the five-party coalition formed after the 1971 elections but was not a success and resigned within two years. He then accepted various business appointments, including an advisory post with Unilever, and in May 1975 the chairmanship of a Government committee on an artificial island in the North Sea. But he has not severed his political connexions. He has refused the position of Queen's Commissioner in Zeeland and the Burgomastership of The Hague. His bitter experiences as Prime Minister seem to have made him decide against a return to active political life.

A big man, with a certain quiet force but without much originality. Though himself a calculating politician, he seemed to lack the luck which is the essence of political success.

His hobbies are chess, football, theology and history.

Married to a homely but friendly wife and has three children. His English is good and he has a pleasant warmth and humour.

CONFIDENTIAL

31 FITZGERALD, DR GARRET MICHAEL DESMOND (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

Leader of Fine Gael.

Born 1926. Educated UCD (PhD) and King's Inns, Dublin (barrister, 1947). Journalist since 1953; lecturer in Economics, UCD since 1959; Director, Economist Intelligence Unit of Ireland Ltd 1961-7; Deputy (Fine Gael) for Dublin South East since 1969; Vice President, Fine Gael 1969-77; party spokesman on education 1969-73; Vice President and past Chairman, Irish Council of European Movement; Minister for Foreign Affairs in Coalition Government 1973-77; Leader of Fine Gael since 1977.

Dr FitzGerald is the son of the late Desmond FitzGerald, a former Minister for External Affairs. His mother was a Presbyterian from Northern Ireland. He was one of the policy-planners for the Fine Gael "New Look" of the early 1960s. In 1972 he published a book on the theme that Ireland can achieve reconciliation only if there are radical changes in the South as well as the North. He has taken pains to maintain and cultivate contacts with all shades of opinion in the North. He is one of the best informed, most intelligent and articulate members of the Dail. Speaks well (and quickly, and at great length). He is easy and approachable but is impatient, impetuous, and at times naive. He is sometimes too ready to take the part of Northern Catholics both against the Loyalist majority and against the British authorities. But he is relatively free of the normal anti-British hang-ups.

Dr FitzGerald was elected leader of Fine Gael following Mr Cosgrave's (qv) resignation in July 1977. His front-bench appointments indicated that his leadership will make Fine Gael slightly less conservative than in the past. Dr FitzGerald is a convinced European and made an excellent impression as Minister for Foreign Affairs. He is a popular and much admired figure in Irish politics.

He is married (his wife's name is Joan) with two sons and one daughter.

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S
GOVERNMENT

EHG(V)(80)14 : ADDENDUM

COPY NO. 1

11 JUNE 1980

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, VENICE

12/13 JUNE 1980

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COMMISSION:

POSITION JUST BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Brief by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1. No consensus has formed. It therefore seems possible that a new President may not be chosen at Venice.. Further preparation could be needed.

2. Reports from our posts show the following positions in Community capitals:

FRG

2. No candidate. Believe Presidency should go to one of smaller States. Would like job taken by a prestigious political figure with good European credentials and proven ability to operate a machine as complicated as the Commission. Very preliminary thinking tends to favour Thorn over Gundelach, but Schmidt has been too busy (eg. with party conference) to give the matter much thought and we have no indication of his own views.

FRANCE

3. No decision taken. We do not know what candidate Giscard favours. Thinking at present still seems to be focussed on the idea of a candidate from a smaller country.

ITALY

4. Names of Colombo (Foreign Affairs) and Pandolfi (Finance)

/both

CONFIDENTIAL

both mentioned. Repeated insistence from Rome that Colombo will not be a candidate but indications that Pandolfi would if he could be assured of selection. On 9 June Pandolfi told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he would be a candidate if there were a consensus in his favour but he did not want his name to be thrust forward prematurely. He also said that ^{he} believed that the French and German Governments were now considering a candidate from one of the smaller Member States 'in order to develop a different, less bureaucratic style of management in the Commission'.

LUXEMBOURG

5. Thorn is still a firm though formally undeclared candidate. On 8 June Prime Minister Werner said on Luxembourg television that he judged the moment had come when his country should put forward its candidate for the Presidency. He had a particular candidate to propose, but did not say who.

DENMARK

6. The Danish Prime Minister will probably recommend Gundelach at Venice as a good candidate but how he puts this may depend on FRG/French/UK views. He is more likely to press Gundelach's case against Thorn than Pandolfi.

IRELAND

7. No change. O'Kennedy, Finance Minister and ex-Foreign Minister, remains a possible candidate. The Irish press has speculated that the Irish Government may put forward John Hume, SDLP leader. This seems improbable.

BELGIUM

8. No declared candidate, but rumours that Tindemans (former Prime Minister) or Davignon (Commissioner for Industrial Affairs) might be put forward. French officials have said that Davignon would undoubtedly make a very active and effective President - 'while these might not be sufficient reasons in themselves to eliminate any candidate it was unlikely that anyone else would propose Davignon if his own Government did not do so'.

NETHERLANDS

9. No candidate.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

11 June 1980