



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

27 January 1986

Dear Charles

Thank you for your further letter, of 30 December, about the European School in Luxembourg.

As Ian Hughes explained in his letter of 24 December, there is nothing which is equivalent to the reports which HMI write following a formal inspection of a school; under the present arrangements (to which, as Ian also explained, we are trying to secure some changes) the Inspectors visit largely to check on the performance of individual English Language Section teachers at the school. Until there are new arrangements (which will not be easy to secure) by which the Inspectors work, there are no means by which an assessment of the provision in the school as a whole can be made; certainly it cannot be made by two single Inspectors with access only to the teaching in the English Language Section. There are, therefore, no reports that I can show you.

This is not to say that the Inspectors, and the responsible Branch here, do not attempt to form a general view of each school, or to pursue particular points as they arise. In the case of the Luxembourg School, however, that view is as explained in Ian's letter, and not as the Prime Minister has been given to understand. Nor have we previously been made aware of particular difficulties, notwithstanding the fora which exist for the representation and discussion of such difficulties, and in which they would surely have emerged if dissatisfaction was widespread.

Perhaps you would let me know if I can be of further help. Meantime, HM Ambassador in Luxembourg has written to the Department making certain observations, and we shall be pursuing these with him. HM Inspectors will also be asked to take account of this correspondence when next visiting the school.

Yours sincerely
Stacey Trundle

MRS S TRUNDLE
Private Secretary

C O Powell Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

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