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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 March 1984

Executive Director of the International  
Energy Agency (IEA)

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Thank you for your letter of 1 March  
which the Prime Minister saw over the weekend.

We agreed this evening that the telegram  
of instructions enclosed with your letter should  
be despatched.

I am copying this letter to Michael Reidy  
(Department of Energy).

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree attached telegram  
in response to Chancellor  
Kohl's enquiry?

1 March 1984

Dear John,

A.D.C. 3/3 .

*[Handwritten signature]*

Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA)

When Chancellor Kohl saw the Prime Minister on 28 February (your letter of the same date to Brian Fall), the Chancellor said that he could not understand why, despite earlier Community agreement to put forward an EC candidate for the Executive Director post, the UK had on 27 February voted for an American candidate.

This is an appointment over which the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Energy have been in close touch. It is an important job; a considerable burden would fall to the holder should the IEA emergency oil sharing scheme be implemented.

There are four candidates - from the US, FRG, Denmark and the Netherlands. All have lobbied us assiduously. We are satisfied that the American (Mr Bosworth) is the best candidate. A number of European countries (outside as well as inside the EC) would prefer a European to an American. The American seems to have the support of Japan, Norway, Canada, New Zealand and probably Australia.

There has predictably been considerable pressure among the Ten to select a European candidate, but no agreement on who that candidate should be. At the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels on 23 January the Foreign Secretary said that in order to be chosen, a candidate would need to have a wide measure of support within the IEA. He added that the Americans had a strong candidate; if the Community candidate was to be successful against the American it was important that the Community should select the best man available. At the Council on 20 February, where the matter was brought up again, the Foreign Secretary said that he was with regret unable to express a preference among the three equally-qualified Community candidates at that stage. Others, including M. Cheysson, agreed with this, and thought that more consultation at the OECD in Paris was required.

/The subject

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The subject came up again over lunch at the Political Cooperation Ministerial meeting in Paris on 28 February, which Mr Rifkind attended. Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Italy all agreed that Bosworth was a good candidate. Herr Genscher referred to his earlier comments on the suitability of the German candidate; the Dane repeated his support for the Danish contender; and the Dutchman spoke in support of his compatriot. Mr Rifkind said that Bosworth had strong personal qualities. After discussion, M. Cheysson insisted on a vote. Consistent with the Foreign Secretary's earlier unwillingness to distinguish between the Community candidates, Mr Rifkind abstained (there was no question of our 'voting for the Americans' as Chancellor Kohl suggested).

The Prime Minister undertook to let the Chancellor have an explanation. We suggest that the best way to do this would be for HM Ambassador Bonn to be instructed to go over the ground with the Chancellor's office. I enclose a telegram of instructions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mike Reidy at the Department of Energy.

*Yours,*  
*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

Precedence/Deskby  
**PRIORITY**

ZCZC 1 ZCZC  
 GRS 2 GRS  
 CLASS 3 **CONFIDENTIAL**  
 CAVEATS 4  
 DESKBY 5  
 FM FCO 6 FM FCO  
 PRE/ADD 7 TO PRIORITY BONN  
 TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 INFO UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL OECD  
 10 IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

11 1. When Chancellor Kohl saw the Prime Minister on 28 February  
 12 he complained that the Germans could not understand why, despite  
 13 earlier Community agreement to put forward an EC candidate for the  
 14 post of Executive Director of the IEA, the UK had voted at the  
 15 Political Co-operation Ministerial meeting in Paris on 27 February  
 16 for the American candidate. The Prime Minister said she would  
 17 enquire into this and let the Chancellor have an explanation.

18 2. Please now give the following explanation to the Chancellor's  
 19 staff in whatever form you consider appropriate:

20 (i) Sir Geoffrey Howe has consistently taken the line in  
 21 discussions on this subject in the Council of Ministers that if a  
 22 Community candidate were to be successful against the American it  
 23 was important that the Community should select the best man  
 24 available for the job. It was also important that the successful  
 25 candidate should

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File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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 2 enjoy a wide measure of support within the IEA as a whole.  
 3 (ii) We have not been aware of an agreement within the Community  
 4 that there should at all costs be a Community candidate. When  
 5 this was discussed by Ministers on 23 January and again on  
 6 20 February, it was agreed to consult urgently with a view to  
 7 seeing whether agreement could be reached on a Community  
 8 candidate. But it has also been recognised from the beginning  
 9 that the US candidate was ~~technically~~ well qualified.  
 10 (iii) Three Community candidates have been put forward. None  
 11 has withdrawn during the consultative process: on 20 February,  
 12 Sir Geoffrey Howe made clear that he was unable at that stage  
 13 to choose between the three Community candidates who all seemed  
 14 equally well qualified. When the matter was put to the vote  
 15 on 27 February we therefore abstained. There was no question of  
 16 our voting for a US candidate. In the event, none of the  
 17 candidates was supported by a majority of Member States.  
 18 (iv) Our abstention was, therefore, in line with the comments  
 19 of Sir Geoffrey Howe at successive Foreign Affairs Councils.  
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 21 HOWE  
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GERMANY: Kohl visit  
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