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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

Prime Minister.

*[Handwritten signature]* A.F.C.  $\frac{13}{3}$

IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 2 March to Peter Walker.

2. I am content with your proposal on the IEA post. This is, however, only one of a number of similar posts in international organisations which are under consideration at the moment, and which need to be looked at together.

3. The other three are the OECD Secretary-General, the President of the European Investment Bank and the Secretary to the Development Committee. The UK has a candidate for OECD Secretary-General, but not for either of the others.

4. I very recently agreed - reflecting an agreement which you had reached with your German opposite number a couple of years ago - that we would support a German banker who is being offered for the Presidency of the EIB. He has support from other Community countries also and there seems to be no rival in the field. For the Development Committee Secretary there are several candidates, but two front-runners have emerged: a German (Fischer) and a Dutchman (Looijen). I have no preference between them: I am sure that either would do the job adequately.

5. It seems to me that, whether we end up with two Germans and one Dutchman (for the IEA as you propose), or one German and two Dutchmen, we should say to each of those countries that we have given them fair support, in return for which we look for support for our candidate for the OECD post. Similarly, in joining the Community consensus for the IEA post, we ought I think to express our hope of Community support in the OECD case, explaining that we believe that our candidate has all the right qualifications for the job. The time has I think come to press his claims pretty hard: the Americans have confirmed this week that he is their preferred candidate.

6. I am copying this to the Prime Minister and to Peter Walker.

*[Handwritten signature]*

N.L.  
9 March 1984

GERMANY: Chancellor Kohl's visit: Pt 8.

