

Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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4 June, 1984

Jean Tesse

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President of the European Commission

When Chancellor Kohl saw the Prime Minister at Chequers on 2 May, he said that Germany would present a first-class candidate for the Presidency of the Commission. He would not agree to Davignon.

Sir Michael Butler has reported that rumours are circulating in Brussels that Genscher has agreed that the Germans should nominate M. Cheysson to be the next President of the Commission. This would not be a desirable outcome from our point of view.

The Foreign Secretary recommends that, when she sees Chancellor Kohl during the Economic Summit, the Prime Minister should raise this subject with him. The Prime Minister might wish to say that when she last met Chancellor Kohl, he assured her that Germany would propose a candidate. As Chancellor Kohl knows, we would be well disposed to a well-qualified German candidate. What are his intentions?

If Chancellor Kohl suggests that there is no urgency, the Prime Minister might wish to say that we think that a candidate does need to be nominated at Fontainebleau. There are other candidates in the field already. There will need to be preparation for the formation of the new Commission.

If Chancellor Kohl gives an indication that he is in fact thinking of proposing M. Cheysson, the Prime Minister might wish to say that she will want to reflect very carefully on this.

We hope that Kohl will come forward with a strong German candidate. If not we should have to consider other candidates, including Davignon. But we must first seek to find out from Chancellor Kohl what his intentions are. The rumours about Cheysson may stem from Genscher rather than Kohl.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary