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8 March 1984

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND: REPORT ON REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

In your letter of 28 February to Willie Whitelaw about your proposals for handling the report of the Boundary Commission for Wales you referred to your understanding that the Scottish and English Commissioners were unlikely to report before 19 March at the earliest. I have now seen his reply of 5 March agreeing to your proposals and enquiring about the timetable for dealing with the reports for England and Scotland.

I am glad to say that I have now received the report of the Scottish Commission and I plan to lay it before Parliament, with a draft Order, on Thursday 22 March. Printing is in hand to meet this timetable. I also plan to announce the receipt of the report in an arranged PQ next week. In the meantime I enclose a typed version of the report.

Subject to the views of colleagues, I propose, for reasons similar to those set out in your letter, to proceed on the basis of the Commission's recommendations. I also enclose a brief analysis of those recommendations. The only areas where there may be contention concern the placing of the North Tayside parliamentary constituency in the North East Scotland EAC and the allocation of certain Strathclyde parliamentary constituencies among three Assembly constituencies. On the first of these, the Commission's decision to adhere to their provisional recommendation will not be welcome to Mr Bill Walker MP; on the second, the Commission's final recommendations for the 3 Assembly constituencies in question adopted counter-proposals to their provisional recommendations that were put forward by the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee. For my part, I see no justification for departing from the recommendations for any area.

When the timing of the submission of the report of the English Commission is known we shall need to consider whether the Scottish and English Orders should be debated separately a week apart, or taken together in the first week in April; the aim would be to catch the Privy Council meeting on 11 April.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the members of H Committee, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

George

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8 MAR 1984



PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
REPORT ON 1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES
ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978 provides that there shall be 8 European Assembly constituencies (EACs) in Scotland. The Boundary Commission has no power to vary that number.

Background

2. The Commission were required to review the existing EACs established in 1979 as soon as the new parliamentary constituencies came into force in March 1983. Leaving aside the Highland and Islands, where special geographical considerations apply, the 1983 electorates of the present Assembly constituencies ranged from 470,584 (4.3% below the average) in the South of Scotland to 565,472 (15% above the average) in Mid Scotland and Fife, ie a range of 19.3%. The electorate of the Highland and Islands EAC was 314,309 (36.1% below the average). The boundaries of all 8 Assembly constituencies had to be realigned with those of the new Parliamentary constituencies.

Overall Review

3. In general the Commission's final recommendations make the minimum changes to the boundaries of the present seats in order to meet the statutory requirements that each should comprise 2 or more whole parliamentary constituencies and have an electorate as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. The electoral quota (average electorate on 26 April 1983 when notice of the review was published) is 491,929.

4. Leaving aside the Highland and Islands, the electorates of the proposed Assembly constituencies range from 1% below the electoral quota to 11.6% above, ie a range of 12.6%. These figures are a considerable improvement on those achieved under the Commission's recommendations in 1978, which varied from almost 6% below the electoral quota to more than 17% above, ie a range of some 23%; and they are also an improvement on the 1983 figures for the present seats which, as noted in paragraph 2 above, vary from some 4% below to 15% above the electoral quota, ie a range of some 19%.

Contentious Areas

5. No objections were made to the Commission against their proposals for Glasgow and Lothian EACs. An objection was made in respect of the Highland and Islands by Mrs Winnie Ewing, MEP for ~~the~~ seat, but was later withdrawn. There were, however, 4 contentious areas - one in Tayside Region and 3 in Strathclyde Region in which local inquiries were held.

i. North Tayside:

Perth and Kinross District Council (supported by Mr Bill Walker, MP for the constituency) wished the North Tayside constituency to be included in Mid Scotland and Fife instead of in North East Scotland as under the Commission's proposal. About 60% of the electorate of North Tayside is in the present Mid Scotland and Fife EAC but the transfer of the whole constituency would result in an electorate in Mid Scotland and Fife more than 18% above the electoral quota. After holding an inquiry the Commission accepted the recommendation of the assistant Commissioner to adhere to the provisional recommendation, which results in an electorate less than 8% above the electoral quota. The District Council's proposal received little support at the inquiry and it is unlikely that the matter will be pursued in Parliament, except perhaps by Mr Walker.

ii. Cunninghame South

iii. Kilmarnock and Loudoun

iv. Strathkelvin and Bearsden Parliamentary Constituencies

The Commission accepted a counterproposal put forward by the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, as the assistant Commissioner recommended. The Commission's original proposals (a) produced electorates in these 3 EACs which ranged from parity to 2.2% above the electoral quota; (b) divided 2 districts between EACs (Hamilton, and Bearsden and Milngavie); and (c) placed the whole of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, more than four-fifths of the electorate of Cunninghame South constituency and almost two-thirds of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency, in different EACs from those in which they currently vote. The counter-proposal (a) produces electorates which range from 1% below the electoral quota to 2.5% above; (b) divide 3 districts between EACs (Cunninghame and Strathkelvin, as well as Hamilton); and (c) keep the electorates referred to in (c) above in the same EACs as they are at present.

After holding an inquiry the Commission (and the assistant Commissioner) took the view that the difference in the balance of electorates between the original and the revised recommendations was not significant (given that an EAC must contain whole Parliamentary constituencies and that the average electorate for a parliamentary constituency is some 55,500) and that the balance of advantage lay in preserving continuity in the electorates of Assembly constituencies rather than in keeping districts intact (see paragraphs 62 and 63 of the report). Following representations against the revised recommendations the Commission declined to hold a further public inquiry (see paragraph 71). The Commission's revised (and final) recommendations for these 3 EACs, and their decision not to hold a further inquiry, may be raised in Parliament by the Scottish Group of Labour MPs, who unanimously supported the Commission's original proposals.

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
REPORT
1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

IN ACCORDANCE with Part I of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, as amended by paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Member

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Chairman*

And three other Members

THE HONOURABLE LORD ROSS, *Deputy Chairman - appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session*

MR ANDREW A. L. EVANS - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland*

PROFESSOR URLAN A. WANNOP - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland (from 6 June 1983)*

Assessors

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ORDNANCE SURVEY

Secretary

MR A. SIMMEN - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland*

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT

on the 1983 Review of European Assembly Constituencies in Scotland
to the Right Honourable George Younger, M.P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland

1. We, the Boundary Commission for Scotland, constituted in accordance with the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 to 1979, have the honour to submit in terms of paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, as amended by section 1(1) of the European Assembly Elections Act 1981, our supplementary report on European Assembly constituencies for Scotland.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

2. As a consequence of the creation of new parliamentary constituencies in 1983, the Commission were required to review the European Assembly constituencies which were established in 1979. This chapter gives the statutory background to that requirement and describes the procedures followed during the review.

3. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as originally enacted, the Commission were charged with the duty of submitting to the Secretary of State for Scotland, as soon as might be after the passing of the Act, a report showing the European Assembly constituencies into which the Commission recommended that Scotland should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 to the Act. These provisions lay down that Scotland shall be divided into eight European Assembly constituencies and set out the requirements to be observed by the Commission in formulating their recommendations. The European Assembly Elections Act 1978 received Royal Assent on 5 May of that year and on 26 May we gave notice in the Edinburgh Gazette of our intention to consider the making of the necessary report. Our recommendations for the initial division of Scotland into eight Assembly constituencies were contained in the report which we submitted to the Secretary of State on 25 September 1978 (Cmd 7336) and were given effect to by the European Assembly Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1911) which came into operation on 3 January 1979. The first general election in the United Kingdom of representatives to the European Assembly was subsequently held on 7 June 1979.

4. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as amended by the 1981 Act, if an Order in Council has been made under section 3 of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 giving effect, with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in a report which we have submitted to the Secretary of State under section 2(1) of the 1949 Act, we are required to proceed to consider the representation of Scotland in the European Assembly and, as soon as may be after that time, submit to the Secretary of State a supplementary report. Under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as amended, the supplementary report must either:

- (a) show the Assembly constituencies into which the Commission recommend that Scotland should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act; or
- (b) state that, in the opinion of the Commission, no alteration is required to be made in the Assembly constituencies in Scotland in order to give effect to those provisions.

The requirements for a supplementary report are set out in Appendix A.

5. The Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/422), made on 16 March 1983 under section 3 of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, gave effect, without modifications, to the recommendations for 72 parliamentary constituencies in Scotland contained in our Third Periodical Report (Cmnd 8794) which we had submitted to you on 18 February 1983 under section 2(1) of the 1949 Act. In terms of the Order, the new parliamentary constituencies came into operation for the next general election held after 30 March 1983. On 19 April we gave formal notice to you of our intention to consider the making of a supplementary report and to commence forthwith a general review of the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland. The statutory notice was published in the Edinburgh Gazette on 26 April 1983. Our aim was to complete the review and submit our report in time to enable our recommendations, if accepted, to be implemented for the next European Assembly elections due to be held in June 1984.

6. The Commission's explanatory leaflet on the review forms Appendix B to this report. Appendix C sets out the contents and electorates in February 1977, 1979 and 1983 of the existing Assembly constituencies in terms of the former parliamentary constituencies. Appendix D lists the written representations which were made to us on our provisional and revised recommendations. The contents and electorates of the eight Assembly constituencies which we submit as our final recommendations are set out in Appendix E. Appendix F gives the electorates in 1983 of the existing and recommended Assembly constituencies and the percentage variation from the electoral quota. The list of parliamentary constituencies in Appendix G indicates in which recommended Assembly constituency each is located. Three maps illustrating our final recommendations accompany this report. The main map (scale 1:1,000,000 or about 16 miles to 1 inch) shows our recommended Assembly constituency boundaries in blue, the existing Assembly constituency boundaries in red and the new parliamentary constituency boundaries in green. Two enlargements (scale 1:250,000 or about 4 miles to 1 inch) show in greater detail Lothians Assembly constituency and the three Assembly constituencies in the West of Scotland.

Procedure

7. The statutory provisions require us to conduct our review of Assembly constituencies on the basis of the parliamentary electorate existing when we announced our intention to carry out the review, ie 26 April 1983. This date thus became the enumeration date for the review. We were supplied by the Electoral Registration Officers in Scotland with details of the electorates on that date of the new parliamentary constituencies. We take this opportunity to thank them for their co-operation in providing this information. We were also supplied with a map showing the boundaries of the new parliamentary constituencies and those of the existing Assembly constituencies. The map showed that several new parliamentary constituencies were divided between two or more Assembly constituencies, and it was clear that alterations were required to be made in all eight Assembly constituencies in order to give effect to the statutory provisions which are set out in Appendix A.

8. As in the case of a review of parliamentary constituencies, we are not statutorily required to enter into consultations with Members of the European Parliament (M.E.P.s), Members of Parliament, the political parties, local authorities or other bodies before formulating our provisional recommendations. Indeed we considered that these provisional recommendations could best be arrived at without regard to conflicting suggestions made to us beforehand. We were thus in a position to be wholly impartial when making these recommendations.

9. We were required by statute to follow procedures during this review which are broadly similar to those which applied to the recent general review of parliamentary constituencies. We published our provisional recommendations for the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland in the Aberdeen Press and Journal, Dundee Courier, Glasgow Herald, Scotsman, Scottish Daily Express and the Daily Record, inviting any person wishing to do so to make representations to us about our proposals. The advertisement was supplemented by a press release describing, with the help of outline maps, the general effect of our recommendations. Copies of our proposals for each Assembly constituency, illustrative maps and the explanatory leaflet were made available for inspection by the public in at least one local authority office or public library in each parliamentary constituency within the Assembly constituency. The addresses of the premises where the documents could be inspected were included in the press notice. We are grateful to the local authorities and their officers for their co-operation in these arrangements. We also took care that the national headquarters of the political parties in Scotland were made aware of our proposals by sending copies of the notice and other documents to them at the time of issue. In addition, the Members representing the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland, and all Members of Parliament for Scottish constituencies, were individually informed of our provisional recommendations, and copies of the notice, maps and leaflet were deposited in the library of the House of Commons and the library of the House of Lords for inspection there.

10. On 9 May it was announced that the next parliamentary general election would be held on 9 June 1983. We published our provisional recommendations on 28 July. We recognised that the statutory period of one month for representations might in some cases allow too little time, particularly during the holiday period, for detailed consideration to be given to the recommendations. In fact, we took account of all representations received including any received after the statutory period.

11. We have held six meetings since the notice to commence our review was published on 26 April 1983. These were all held under the Chairmanship of our Deputy Chairman but we have kept our ex officio Chairman, Mr Speaker, informed of our progress.

Local inquiries

12. Unlike the position in the initial review of Assembly constituencies in 1978, when there was no requirement to hold local inquiries, we were obliged in this review to arrange for a local inquiry to be held into our provisional recommendations where objections were received from an interested local authority or from a body of electors numbering more than 500, before we made the recommendation to the Secretary of State. As in the case of a review of parliamentary constituencies, we are not obliged, however, to hold a local inquiry in respect of objections to revised recommendations, but we may do so if we consider it necessary to obtain more information or local opinion on certain matters.

13. As a result of objections two local inquiries were held into our provisional recommendations. One inquiry related to two Assembly constituencies (North East Scotland, and Mid Scotland and Fife); the other related to three Assembly constituencies (South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West). At our request you appointed Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., as assistant Commissioner for both inquiries. We refer later to Mr Cameron's reports but we should like to record here our thanks to him for the careful way in which he conducted both inquiries, and for submitting so promptly his full and informative reports which we found of great assistance in reaching our conclusions.

14. Notices advertising the holding of the local inquiries were published in the same newspapers as the notices advertising our provisional recommendations. Copies of the representations received by the Commission were sent to the headquarters of the political parties and to the local authorities in each of the Assembly constituencies concerned for public inspection at the same premises as before. In addition, a summary of the representations was sent to all those who had made representations. Members of the European Parliament and Members of Parliament were individually informed of the holding of local inquiries affecting their particular constituencies and a summary of the representations was also sent to them. Copies of the representations were deposited in the libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords for inspection there. Statements explaining the Commission's reasons for their provisional recommendations were also sent to all these parties and were made available for public inspection before, and at, the inquiries themselves. The assistant Commissioner also received a full set of papers for each inquiry. The inquiries were not restricted to those who had made written representations and it was open to anyone who wished to do so to make a statement. Shorthand writers were engaged to provide a transcript of the proceedings.

15. We decided to follow the practice which we had adopted during the review of parliamentary constituencies of not being represented at local inquiries to put the case for our provisional recommendations. This was because we would have to decide later whether to accept or reject the assistant Commissioner's recommendations. Instead, we prepared for each inquiry a statement which set out the criteria which we had to apply and the factors which we had taken into account. This statement was issued before each inquiry and was read out by the assistant Commissioner at the start of the proceedings.

16. We decided, after considering the report on one of the local inquiries, to revise our recommendations. In that case it was necessary under the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, as applied to this review, for the revised recommendations to be published in exactly the same way as the provisional recommendations. Copies of the assistant Commissioner's report were deposited for local public inspection with the revised recommendations and a map, and a copy of these documents was sent to those who had made representations and to the other interested parties. In the other case, in which we decided to adhere to our provisional recommendations, copies of the assistant Commissioner's report were made available for local public inspection, and were sent to those who had made representations and to the other interested parties, when we announced our decision following the inquiry.

Discussion with the political parties

17. We followed the procedure which we had adopted during the review of parliamentary constituencies when we arranged meetings with representatives nominated by the political parties in Scotland which currently had Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. We held a meeting with the representatives of the political parties on 3 October 1983 to discuss our provisional recommendations and the arrangements for any public inquiries which were necessary. We found this discussion on our proposals and procedure most helpful. At the meeting the political parties were unanimous in hoping that the Commission would complete the review in time for their recommendations to come into operation for the European Assembly elections in June 1984. We, for our part, confirmed that we would do our best to complete the review in time for this to be achieved.

CHAPTER TWO

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE REVIEW

18. In making our provisional recommendations for European Assembly constituencies we are under a statutory duty to apply the provisions of the European Assembly Elections Acts 1978 and 1981, which in turn apply provisions of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958. The statutory requirements are set out in Appendix A. The Acts provide that:-

- (i) there shall be eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland;
- (ii) each Assembly constituency shall consist of an area that includes two or more parliamentary constituencies;
- (iii) no parliamentary constituency shall be included partly in one Assembly constituency and partly in another; and
- (iv) the electorate of any Assembly constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

19. As we indicated in paragraph 7 above, we are required to base our recommendations on the numbers of parliamentary electors on the register of electors on the date on which notice of our intention to commence this review was published, ie 26 April 1983. The electoral quota is calculated by dividing the total Scottish parliamentary electorate on that date (3,935,429) by the number of Assembly constituencies in Scotland (8). This produces an electoral quota of 491,929.

20. We are not statutorily required to take into account in this review any other considerations, such as the crossing of regional or district boundaries or the breaking of local ties which apply in a general review of parliamentary constituencies. So far as is reasonably practicable, nearness to the electoral quota is therefore the overriding consideration having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. Thus the low density of population in the Highlands and Islands was accepted as being an outstanding geographical consideration in the initial review of Assembly constituencies in 1978. Subject to the statutory requirements as to parity of Assembly constituency electorates and the integrity of parliamentary constituencies being met, we thought it sensible so far as possible (a) to respect the boundaries of local authority areas, especially regional boundaries, (b) to leave the boundaries of the existing Assembly constituencies undisturbed in view of their relatively recent establishment in 1979 and (c) to take account of local ties and community of interest. As regards (a) we recognised that in a situation where Scotland has to be divided into eight Assembly constituencies with reasonably equal electorates it would be impossible to avoid splitting some of the nine Regions. So far as Districts are concerned many, including Angus, Bearsden and Milngavie, Cunninghame, Hamilton, Kyle and Carrick, Perth and Kinross, and Strathkelvin were already divided by the new parliamentary constituencies in order to achieve balanced electorates. As regards (b) we noted in paragraph 7 above that the boundaries of all the existing Assembly constituencies required some alteration following the creation of new parliamentary constituencies. As regards (c) given an electoral quota of almost 500,000 for an Assembly constituency, we thought it unlikely that arguments on the grounds of local ties and community of interest could be everywhere satisfied.

CHAPTER THREE

THE REVIEW AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS

21. In this chapter we describe in detail our review of each Assembly constituency and set out our final recommendations and our conclusions on the review. The contents and electorates of the existing Assembly constituencies in 1977, 1979 and 1983 are set out in Appendix C. The contents and electorates of the recommended Assembly constituencies in terms of the new parliamentary constituencies are set out in Appendix E. We deal first with those Assembly constituencies where no objections were made to our provisional recommendations, and then deal with those where objections were made and local inquiries were necessary. In this chapter Assembly constituencies are generally referred to as E.A.C.s.

GLASGOW

22. The present Assembly constituency comprises the 13 former Glasgow parliamentary constituencies which were wholly within the City of Glasgow District. The electorate in February 1983 was 520,107 (5.8% above the average). It excludes the former Rutherglen constituency and the part of the former Bothwell constituency within the District, both of which are in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C. The new Glasgow Rutherglen parliamentary constituency lies wholly within the District and the part of the former Bothwell constituency within the District now forms part of the new Glasgow Shettleston constituency. To include the new Glasgow Rutherglen constituency (electorate 60,082) with the other 10 new parliamentary constituencies in the City would produce a Glasgow E.A.C. with an electorate of 586,671 (19.3% above the electoral quota). Clearly this would not comply with the statutory requirement that the electorate of any Assembly constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable.

23. Our provisional recommendation was that Glasgow E.A.C. should comprise the following 10 parliamentary constituencies in Glasgow: Cathcart, Central, Garscadden, Govan, Hillhead, Maryhill, Pollok, Provan, Shettleston, and Springburn, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 526,589 (7% above the electoral quota). Glasgow Central Constituency Labour Party registered their support for the proposed boundary changes. No objections were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for Glasgow E.A.C.

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

24. The present Assembly constituency comprises the three former parliamentary constituencies which were wholly within Highland Region (Caithness and Sutherland, Inverness, and Ross and Cromarty), two which were partly in Highland Region (Moray and Nairn, and Argyll), one which was wholly in Grampian Region (Banff), Orkney and Zetland constituency, and the Western Isles constituency. The total electorate in February 1983 was 314,309 (36.1% below the average). Highland Region now comprises three new parliamentary constituencies (Caithness and Sutherland; Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber; and Ross, Cromarty and Skye). The new Moray constituency is in Grampian Region, as is the new Banff and Buchan constituency, and the new Argyll and Bute constituency is in Strathclyde Region. The boundaries of the Orkney and Shetland constituency and the Western Isles constituency are unchanged.

25. As in 1978 we accepted that special geographical considerations apply in this Assembly constituency and justify a much smaller electorate than elsewhere in Scotland. We noted that the electorate of the three new parliamentary constituencies in Highland Region, combined with that of Orkney and Shetland constituency and the Western Isles constituency, amounted to less than 198,000 (almost 60% below the electoral quota). We considered that the new Argyll and Bute constituency in Strathclyde Region and the new Moray constituency in Grampian Region would be the most appropriate constituencies to be included in the Highlands and Islands E.A.C.

26. Our provisional recommendation was that the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. should comprise the following seven parliamentary constituencies: Caithness and Sutherland; Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber; and Ross, Cromarty and Skye in Highland Region; Argyll and Bute in Strathclyde Region; Moray in Grampian Region; Orkney and Shetland; and the Western Isles, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 307,543 (37.5% below the electoral quota). Highland Regional Council resolved to raise no objections or representations on the proposals. Mrs Winifred Ewing, Member of the European Parliament for the present Highlands and Islands seat, objected to the loss of part of Banffshire from the Assembly constituency, but she subsequently withdrew her objection. No other representations were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for the Highlands and Islands E.A.C.

LOTHIANS

27. The present Assembly constituency comprises the former seven Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies and the former Midlothian and West Lothian constituencies. The electorate in February 1983 was 557,340 (13.3% above the average). It excludes the former Berwick and East Lothian parliamentary constituency, the majority of which was situated in East Lothian District, and which is in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. The new East Lothian parliamentary constituency (electorate 63,283) comprises that District and lies wholly within Lothian Region. To include it with the six new parliamentary constituencies in Edinburgh and the new Linlithgow, Livingston and Midlothian constituencies, thereby making the Assembly constituency co-terminous with the Region, would increase the electorate to almost 592,000 (more than 20% above the electoral quota). This was clearly unacceptable.

28. Our provisional recommendation was that Lothians E.A.C. should comprise the six new Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies (Central, East, Leith, Pentlands, South, and West), and the new Linlithgow, Livingston and Midlothian parliamentary constituencies, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 528,480 (7.4% above the electoral quota). Lothian Regional Council, the City of Edinburgh District Council and West Lothian District Council informed us that they had noted the proposals but they offered no comments. East Lothian District Council, for their part, also noted the boundary changes which exclude the District from Lothians E.A.C. No objections were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for Lothians E.A.C.

MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

29. We deal with these two Assembly constituencies together because of our decision to hold one local inquiry into our provisional recommendations for both seats.

30. The present Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprises the following former nine parliamentary constituencies: Central Fife, Dunfermline, East Fife, and Kirkcaldy (in Fife Region); Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire, and Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth (in Central Region); Perth and East Perthshire (in Tayside Region); Kinross and West Perthshire (which was divided between Central and Tayside Regions); and West Stirlingshire (which was divided between Central and Strathclyde Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 565,472 (15% above the average).

31. The present North East Scotland E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies: Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, East Aberdeenshire, and West Aberdeenshire (in Grampian Region); Dundee East, Dundee West, and South Angus (in Tayside Region); and North Angus and Mearns (which was divided between Grampian and Tayside Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 505,248 (2.7% above the average).

Provisional recommendations

32. In making our provisional recommendations for the new Assembly constituencies we noted that:-

- (i). the boundaries of the present Assembly constituencies divide a number of the new parliamentary constituencies (including Banff and Buchan, North Tayside, and Perth and Kinross) and therefore could not remain unaltered;
- (ii). the addition of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency (electorate 61,194) to the four constituencies in Grampian Region and the three in Tayside Region (which are in the present North East Scotland E.A.C.) to form a new Assembly constituency would result in an electorate of 496,378 (only 1% above the electoral quota); and
- (iii). the addition of North Tayside parliamentary constituency (electorate 52,462) to Perth and Kinross parliamentary constituency, the four constituencies in Central Region and the five constituencies in Fife Region, to form a new Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. would result in an electorate of 582,071 (18.3% above the electoral quota); but that
- (iv). the addition of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency and North Tayside parliamentary constituency to the four constituencies in Grampian Region and the three constituencies in Tayside Region (already in the present North East Scotland E.A.C.) to form a new Assembly constituency would result in an electorate of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota); and
- (v). a Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. consisting of Perth and Kinross parliamentary constituency, the four constituencies in Central Region and the five constituencies in Fife Region would result in an electorate of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota).

33. We accordingly determined to recommend provisionally as follows:-

- (1) Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprising the 10 parliamentary constituencies of Clackmannan, Falkirk East, Falkirk West, Stirling, Central Fife, Dunfermline East, Dunfermline West, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife, and Perth and Kinross, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota); and
- (2) North East Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, Banff and Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Angus East, Dundee East, Dundee West, and North Tayside, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota).

Representations on the provisional recommendations

34. Following the publication of our provisional recommendations we received two representations objecting to our proposals and about two dozen representations which supported or accepted them. Perth and Kinross District Council lodged objections on the basis that North Tayside parliamentary constituency should be included in the new Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. and Stirling parliamentary constituency should be included in the new Strathclyde West E.A.C. The District Council's objection was supported by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. (Member for North Tayside). On the other hand, Central and Fife Regional Councils, and Stirling and Angus District Councils supported our proposals and opposed the counter-proposal put forward by Perth and Kinross District Council. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party were reasonably satisfied with the proposals and saw no reason to lodge objections. Representations approving the proposals were received from Mr David Marshall, M.P. (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour M.P.s) and Mr Dennis Canavan, M.P. (Member for Falkirk West), both of whom also opposed the counter-proposal to transfer Stirling parliamentary constituency to Strathclyde West, Mr Ernie Ross, M.P. (Member for Dundee West) and from nine Constituency Labour Parties, including those for North Tayside and Stirling. The Scottish Liberal Party expressed their support for the inclusion of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency in the proposed North East Scotland E.A.C. A local branch of North Tayside Liberal Association and a Perth and Kinross district councillor objected to the District Council's proposal to include North Tayside parliamentary constituency in Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. Grampian and Tayside Regional Councils, and the City of Aberdeen, Clackmannan, and Kirkcaldy District Councils informed us that they had no representations to make on our proposals. No representations were received at that stage from the Member of the European Parliament for either seat. In view of the objection from Perth and Kinross District Council we were obliged to hold a local inquiry.

Local inquiry

35. The Inquiry was held by the assistant Commissioner whom you appointed, Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., in the Lesser City Hall, Perth on 7 November 1983. At the Inquiry statements were made on behalf of Perth and Kinross District Council, Central Regional Council, Stirling District Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, and Kirriemuir Branch of North Tayside Liberal Association, and by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. (Member for North Tayside) and Mr John Purvis, Member of the European Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife.

36. The assistant Commissioner reported to us that only one alternative proposal was put forward at the Inquiry, namely that North Tayside parliamentary constituency should form part of Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. rather than of North East Scotland E.A.C. This proposal was put forward by Perth and Kinross District Council and was supported at the Inquiry by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. and Mr John Purvis, M.E.P. It was appreciated that the effect of this change by itself would be to increase the electorate of Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. from 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota) to 582,071 (18.3% above the electoral quota). In order to compensate for this increase the District Council proposed that Stirling parliamentary constituency (electorate 56,938) should be transferred from Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. to the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. This latter proposal was vigorously opposed at the Inquiry by Central Regional Council and by Stirling District Council which was represented by Counsel.

37. The main argument put forward in support of the proposal by Perth and Kinross District Council was that North Tayside parliamentary constituency, or at least the greater part of it, has its natural links with Perth and, through Perth, with Mid Scotland and Fife. It was claimed that North Tayside is physically separated from the remainder of the proposed North East Scotland E.A.C. by the Grampian Mountains and that all its economic connections are with the south and west rather than with the north and east. Mr Walker drew attention to the size of the North Tayside constituency and the communication problems within it, and the way in which Perth forms the focal point of such communications. He said that in economic matters particular importance has to be given to agriculture and tourism, the former being particularly important when European Community matters are under consideration. In both these major respects Mr Walker considered that the links of North Tayside constituency are with Perth.

38. The major difficulty which the assistant Commissioner found in the proposal of Perth and Kinross District Council was that all the kinds of argument which could be put forward for linking North Tayside with Mid Scotland and Fife could be put forward with at least equal, and possibly greater, force in relation to Stirling constituency. In the submissions for Central Regional Council and Stirling District Council it was pointed out that natural physical features separate Stirling constituency from Strathclyde West, and that the Stirling area naturally looks north and east to the Forth Valley where all its communications and economic links are.

39. The effect of the submissions at the Inquiry was, in the assistant Commissioner's view, that no reason could be put forward for adding North Tayside parliamentary constituency to Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. which could not also be advanced as a reason against removing Stirling parliamentary constituency from that E.A.C. In these circumstances the numerical balance was, in his view, the determining factor. He pointed out that the effect of adding North Tayside to Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. would be to make a very significant increase in the amount of the excess of the electorate in that Assembly constituency over the electoral quota. The amount of that excess (more than 18%) was, he suggested, unacceptable, particularly having regard to the provisions of the relevant statutes which do not require the Commission to take account of local ties, and which place primary importance upon achieving, as nearly as practicable, a numerical balance. In his view no good reason had been advanced for altering our provisional proposals and he recommended that they should be confirmed.

Consideration of the assistant Commissioner's report

40. We had little difficulty in accepting the assistant Commissioner's recommendation to adhere to our provisional recommendations. We recalled that one of the considerations which we had in mind in making our provisional recommendation for Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. was that the addition of North Tayside parliamentary constituency would result in an electorate 18.3% above the electoral quota (paragraph 32(iii)). We had rejected this move in favour of placing North Tayside in North East Scotland E.A.C. in order to improve the balance of electorate between the two Assembly constituencies. In addition, we noted that the electorate of the part of Angus District in North Tayside parliamentary constituency accounts for about 40% of the total electorate of the constituency, and that part is already in the present North East Scotland E.A.C. As regards the suggested transfer of Stirling constituency to Strathclyde West E.A.C., we accepted the assistant Commissioner's findings, noting also that the transfer would detach the constituency from the rest of Central Region and would increase the electorate of the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. to about 12% above the electoral quota if no other change was made.

Final recommendations

41. On 13 December 1983 we informed all those who had made representations and other interested parties that, having considered the assistant Commissioner's report on the Inquiry, we had decided not to revise our provisional recommendations for Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. and North East Scotland E.A.C. as published on 28 July, and that we proposed to include these recommendations as our final recommendations in our report. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations as follows:-

1. Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprising the 10 parliamentary constituencies of Clackmannan, Falkirk East, Falkirk West, Stirling, Central Fife, Dunfermline East, Dunfermline West, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife, and Perth and Kinross, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota); and
2. North East Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, Banff and Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Angus East, Dundee East, Dundee West, and North Tayside, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota).

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND STRATHCLYDE EAST STRATHCLYDE WEST

42. We deal with these three Assembly constituencies together because of our decision to hold one local inquiry into our provisional recommendations for these three seats.

43. The present South of Scotland E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies: Ayr, Central Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, and Lanark (in Strathclyde Region); Dumfries, and Galloway (in Dumfries and Galloway Region); Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles (in Borders Region); and Berwick and East Lothian (which was divided between Lothian and Borders Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 470,584 (4.3% below the average).

44. The present Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde Region: Bothwell, Coatbridge and Airdrie, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, and Rutherglen. The electorate in February 1983 was 483,708 (1.6% below the average).

45. The present Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde Region: Bute and North Ayrshire, Central Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Greenock and Port Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, West Renfrewshire, and Paisley. The electorate in February 1983 was 517,452 (5.2% above the average).

Provisional recommendations

46. In making our provisional recommendations for the new Assembly constituencies we noted that:-

- (i). the boundaries of the present Assembly constituencies divide a number of the new parliamentary constituencies (including Argyll and Bute, Clydesdale, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Cunninghame North, Cunninghame South, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden), and therefore could not remain unaltered;

- (ii). a new South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; and Clydesdale in Strathclyde Region; the four constituencies in Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Regions; and East Lothian (all in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. except for Musselburgh and small areas in Clydesdale constituency and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency) would have an electorate of 437,460 (11.1% below the electoral quota). The addition of Cunninghame South (electorate 49,370) which is mostly in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. would increase the electorate to 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota) but would divide Cunninghame District between the South of Scotland E.A.C. and Strathclyde West E.A.C.
- (iii). a new Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie, Dumbarton, Eastwood, Greenock and Port Glasgow, Paisley North, Paisley South, Renfrew West and Inverclyde (all in the present E.A.C.), and Cunninghame North (mostly in the present E.A.C. with a part in the present South of Scotland E.A.C.) would have an electorate of 442,587 (10% below the electoral quota). The addition of Cunninghame South (mostly in the present South of Scotland E.A.C., with a small part in Strathclyde West E.A.C.) would produce an electorate of 491,957 (virtual parity) and would keep intact the whole of Cunninghame District in the same Assembly constituency;
- (iv). a new Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of East Kilbride, Hamilton, Kilmarnock and Loudoun, Monklands East, Motherwell North, Motherwell South, and Rutherglen (all or mostly in the present E.A.C.); Monklands West, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden (both partly in the present E.A.C.); and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth (divided between the present Mid Scotland and Fife, and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s) would have an electorate of 564,951 (almost 15% above the electoral quota); and
- (v). the addition of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency (62,249), which is in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C., to the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C., rather than the addition of Cunninghame South, would result in the electorate of the latter E.A.C. being much nearer the electoral quota (1.6% above instead of 11.1% below) if no other change was made .

47. We accordingly determined to recommend provisionally as follows:-

1. South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Dumfries; Galloway and Upper Nithsdale; East Lothian; Roxburgh and Berwickshire; and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 499,709 (1.6% above the electoral quota).
2. Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Glasgow Rutherglen; Hamilton; Monklands East; Monklands West; Motherwell North; Motherwell South; and Strathkelvin and Bearsden, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 502,702 (2.2% above the electoral quota).

3. Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Greenock and Port Glasgow; Paisley North; Paisley South; and Renfrew West and Inverclyde, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 491,957 compared with the electoral quota of 491,929.

48. We noted that while our proposals would include the whole of Cunninghame District in Strathclyde West E.A.C. and the whole of Strathkelvin District in Strathclyde East E.A.C., they would divide Bearsden and Milngavie District between Strathclyde East (the part in Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency) and Strathclyde West (the part in Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency).

Representations on the provisional recommendations

49. Following the publication of our provisional recommendations we received seven objections to our proposals and 14 representations which approved or accepted them.

50. Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council objected to the proposed inclusion of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency (which comprises the District) in the new South of Scotland E.A.C. and argued for its retention in Strathclyde East E.A.C. The Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee objected to the proposals for all three Assembly constituencies and proposed that (1) Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. and added to the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C.; (2) Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. and added to the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C.; and (3) Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. and added to the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. These amendments produced revised electorates of 486,830 (South of Scotland), 503,407 (Strathclyde East) and 504,131 (Strathclyde West), all nearer to the electoral quota of 491,929 than the other five Assembly constituencies in Scotland. The Committee felt that these amendments would cause least further disturbance by retaining more electors in the Assembly constituencies in which they currently vote than did the Commission's recommendations. They also felt that where an adjustment could be made to reduce, albeit marginally, the electorate of the South of Scotland E.A.C. this would compensate for the very wide geographical spread of that constituency. The Committee's letter stated that the representations had the support of the 27 United Kingdom parliamentary constituency associations within the three Assembly constituencies. This representation was supported in writing by the South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council. It was also supported by Bearsden and Milngavie District Council in so far as it suggested the inclusion of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West E.A.C., thus keeping the District intact (the part of the District in Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency already being included in that proposed Assembly constituency). Mr Adam Fergusson, Member of the European Parliament for Strathclyde West, asked the Commission to consider seriously retaining the status quo of 1979 so far as possible in relation to Strathclyde West E.A.C. The Scottish Liberal Party commented that the inclusion of Dumbarton parliamentary constituency and Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West was unfortunate since the River Clyde is a natural boundary. They suggested that an exchange of those constituencies with, say, Hamilton and East Kilbride might make for more convenient and compact Assembly constituencies. (This point was not pursued at the subsequent local inquiry.)

51. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party, for their part, were reasonably satisfied with the proposals for these Assembly constituencies and they saw no reason to lodge objections. Mr David Marshall, M.P. (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour M.P.s) informed us that his colleagues unanimously supported our proposals and that they could see no logic or rationale in the counter-proposals which had been put forward. Mr David Lambie, M.P. (Member for Cunninghame South) and the Labour Group on Kyle and Carrick District Council also wrote in support of the proposals for these three Assembly constituencies. East Lothian Constituency Labour Party registered their support for the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. Strathkelvin District Council and Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party supported the proposals in that the whole of the District should be in one Assembly constituency, namely Strathclyde East. Cunninghame District Council supported the Commission's proposal to include Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West, and Mr Hugh McCartney, M.P. (Member for Clydebank and Milngavie) and the Constituency Labour Party supported the Commission's recommendation for Strathclyde West E.A.C. Four District Councils (Cumnock and Doon Valley, East Lothian, Roxburgh, and Tweeddale) noted the proposals but made no observations. No representations were made at that stage by the Members of the European Parliament for the South of Scotland or Strathclyde East seats.

52. In view of the objections from Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee we were obliged to hold a local inquiry.

Local inquiry

53. The Inquiry was held by the assistant Commissioner, Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., in the Burgh Court Hall, Glasgow on 2 November 1983. At the Inquiry statements were made on behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council, the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, the Scottish Liberal Party, and by Mr Adam Fergusson, M.E.P. for Strathclyde West, and Mr Alasdair Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland.

54. The assistant Commissioner reported to us that representations against our proposals were made at the Inquiry by Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council which suggested that Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency should remain, as it presently is, in Strathclyde East E.A.C. This proposal was put forward as an independent proposal and a number of reasons in its favour were advanced, for the most part concerning the character of the District and its affinities with the Central Belt of Scotland. The assistant Commissioner noted that the effect of transferring Kilmarnock and Loudoun, without making other changes, would be to reduce the South of Scotland electorate to 437,460 (11% below the electoral quota), and increase the electorate of Strathclyde East to 564,951 (almost 15% above the electoral quota). Not only were these divergencies from the electoral quota substantial, and probably unacceptable, in themselves, but also they would give rise to a very sharp disparity between adjacent Assembly constituencies. In his view, therefore, the proposal of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council could only be considered, if at all, as part of a wider re-arrangement of constituencies.

55. The other major proposal put forward at the Inquiry was that of the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, supported by the South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, details of which are given in paragraph 50 above. Briefly, the counter-

proposal was to retain Kilmarnock and Loudoun in Strathclyde East instead of placing it in South of Scotland, place Cunninghame South in South of Scotland instead of in Strathclyde West, and place Strathkelvin and Bearsden in Strathclyde West instead of in Strathclyde East. The assistant Commissioner noted that the total effect of these changes taken together would be to produce electorates which would not diverge from the electoral quota to any significantly greater extent than did the Commission's own proposals. Under the Commission's proposals the electorates of the proposed South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s would be, respectively, 1.6% above, 2.2% above, and virtually equal to the electoral quota. Under the counter-proposal the figures were 1% below, 2.3% above, and 2.5% above the electoral quota. The assistant Commissioner also noted that although the counter-proposal would have the effect of perpetuating the division of Cunninghame District between the South of Scotland and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s and dividing Strathkelvin District, it would avoid the division of Bearsden and Milngavie District under the Commission's proposals.

56. In putting forward the counter-proposal it was argued that it was legitimate to take account of matters such as local ties and community of interest and that, where the numerical requirements could be satisfied by more than one grouping of parliamentary constituencies, some basis of choice must be adopted. Three reasons were advanced at the Inquiry for preferring the counter-proposal to the Commission's proposal. Firstly it would allow a greater continuity of electorate between the existing and the new Assembly constituencies. Under the Commission's proposals the whole electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District and almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency would be moved to different Assembly constituencies. Under the counter-proposal, on the other hand, these electorates would remain in the same Assembly constituencies in which they presently are, as also would more than half of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency. It was submitted that it was desirable to maintain continuity in the electorates of Assembly constituencies when many electors' perceptions of the European Parliament and the significance of Assembly constituencies were only beginning to form. Secondly, it was submitted that there is a natural affinity between the area of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and the rest of the existing South of Scotland E.A.C., while there is no natural affinity between Kilmarnock and Loudoun District and the area of the South of Scotland E.A.C. Thirdly, it was submitted that under the Commission's proposal Strathclyde West E.A.C. would be unbalanced, being composed of seven parliamentary constituencies to the south of the River Clyde and two to the north, and there might be difficulties for the M.E.P. in coping with a constituency so constituted.

57. The assistant Commissioner also reported that the submissions made to the Inquiry by Mr Alasdair Hutton and Mr Adam Fergusson, and on behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council, tended to support the counter-proposal, or some aspect of it. Mr Hutton, M.E.P. for the present South of Scotland seat, emphasised the importance of maintaining the stability of existing Assembly constituencies. He also referred to the size of the existing South of Scotland E.A.C. and to the difficulties of communication within it. Mr Hutton considered that Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency could more easily be integrated with the rest of the South of Scotland E.A.C., and better served by the Member, than could Kilmarnock and Loudoun District. He had not experienced, and was not aware of, any problems arising from the division of Cunninghame District between the two present Assembly constituencies. He suggested that, in view of its size and relatively thinly spread population, the area of the South of Scotland was one where special geographical considerations arise. Mr Fergusson, M.E.P. for the present Strathclyde West seat, also emphasised the importance of the factor

of continuity, particularly in view of the short time which had elapsed since Assembly constituencies were first set up. He therefore urged that the status quo should be retained as nearly as possible. On behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council it was submitted that the natural associations of the area are all with the north. The problems of the District are those common to the Central Belt of Scotland and are shared with adjoining areas such as Motherwell, Hamilton and East Kilbride. They are not the problems associated with areas such as Dumfries and Galloway, or the Borders.

58. On the other hand, the Commission's proposals were supported at the Inquiry by the Scottish Council of the Labour Party and by the Scottish Liberal Party. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party submitted that it would be illogical to divide Cunninghame District and place Cunninghame South constituency alone in the South of Scotland E.A.C. It was also submitted that Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency consists almost entirely of the old East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire constituencies, and the rest of these former constituencies were included within the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. The assistant Commissioner referred to the fact that these points had also been made in the written submission by Mr David Marshall, M.P., who also expressed the view that the division of Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies would be inconvenient both for the District Council and for the M.E.P. It was further stated on behalf of the Scottish Council of the Labour Party that there were a number of respects in which objections might have been taken to the Commission's proposals, but that it had been decided that no objections should be made because it was recognised that the proposals overall were reasonable and that any suggestion for a change in one place would require further consequential changes. Similar views were expressed on behalf of the Scottish Liberal Party who also stressed that it was extremely important, in view of the imminence of elections for the European Parliament, that the constituencies should be settled as soon as possible. The assistant Commissioner also referred in his report to the written representations which had been received from the District Councils, Members of Parliament, Constituency Labour Parties and others mentioned in paragraph 51 above.

59. The assistant Commissioner reported that in considering all the submissions made to him he was not inclined to place great weight on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or community of interest between different areas. There was no statutory requirement to take such matters into account and in view of the size of Assembly constituencies it appeared inevitable that, in most cases, they would include areas of quite diverse character and circumstances. It did, however, appear to him that there was a great deal of force in the argument that continuity of electorates should be preserved where possible. Given that there were to be territorial Assembly constituencies on the present model, he accepted that there must be some basis for choosing between different arrangements which give a similar numerical result. In his view the counter-proposal of the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee did give an arrangement of constituencies which preserved continuity to a greater extent than did the Commission's proposals. In addition, the arguments concerning local affinities, so far as they went, pointed in the same direction. It was true that, as noted in paragraph 55 above, the counterproposal would have the effect of perpetuating the division of Cunninghame District and dividing Strathkelvin District; and that was a disadvantage which had to be balanced against the advantage of maintaining a greater continuity of electorates in Assembly constituencies. The assistant Commissioner recognised that there might well be differences of opinion as to the balance of advantage and disadvantage but, having considered the submissions at the Inquiry, he came to the view that the balance should favour the counter-proposal.

60. With reference to a disagreement in the submissions to the Inquiry as to how far continuity of electorates would be preserved if Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency were made part of Strathclyde West E.A.C., the assistant Commissioner explained in his report that the constituency consists of Electoral Division 45 and District Ward 5 in Bearsden and Milngavie District and Electoral Division 46 in Strathkelvin District, all of which were in the former East Dunbartonshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Strathclyde West E.A.C.), together with Electoral Division 47 in Strathkelvin District which was partly in the former West Stirlingshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C.) and partly in the former North Lanarkshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C.). On the basis of 1983 electorate figures he said that a little over 60% of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency is included in the existing Strathclyde West E.A.C.

61. In all the circumstances the assistant Commissioner recommended that the Commission's provisional recommendations should be modified so as to give effect to the counter-proposal, namely to retain Kilmarnock and Loudoun in Strathclyde East E.A.C., to place Cunninghame South in South of Scotland E.A.C., and to place Strathkelvin and Bearsden in Strathclyde West E.A.C.

Consideration of the assistant Commissioner's report

62. We noted the assistant Commissioner's view that the total effect of the changes under the counter-proposal produces electorates which do not diverge from the electoral quota to any significantly greater extent than do our provisional recommendations (paragraph 55). Given the requirement that an Assembly constituency must consist of whole parliamentary constituencies, and the fact that the average electorate in 1983 of a parliamentary constituency is about 54,650, we accept that view.

63. We also noted the assistant Commissioner's view that no great weight should be placed on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or the community of interest between different areas; that the continued division of Cunninghame District and the division of Strathkelvin District under the counter-proposal is a disadvantage but that it is outweighed by the advantage, as he saw it, of maintaining a greater continuity of the present Assembly constituencies, an argument in which he thought there was a great deal of force. We recalled that in drawing up our provisional recommendations for these three Assembly constituencies we had tended to give more weight to maintaining district boundaries than to maintaining continuity of electorates of the present Assembly constituencies. On that basis our provisional recommendations produced electorates from parity to 2.2% above the electoral quota. Arising from the division of certain Districts between parliamentary constituencies, our provisional recommendations divided two Districts between Assembly constituencies, namely Bearsden and Milngavie District between Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West, and Hamilton District between South of Scotland and Strathclyde East. At the same time the whole electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District (which makes up that constituency) and almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency would be moved to different Assembly constituencies. On the other hand, while the counter-proposal would perpetuate the division of Cunninghame District between South of Scotland and Strathclyde West and would divide Strathkelvin District between Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West (and leave Hamilton District divided as under our original proposals), under it the electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency, almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and more than 60% of the electorate

of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency would remain in the same Assembly constituency as they are at present. In considering the balance of advantage between keeping Districts intact and preserving continuity in the electorate of Assembly constituencies, we noted the following factors. Firstly, both Cunninghame District and Strathkelvin District are at present divided between Assembly constituencies. So far as Cunninghame District is concerned we noted that at the Inquiry Mr Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland, stated that he had not experienced, and was not aware of, any problems arising from the present division of Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies. We considered that some weight should be given to the experience of the present Member of the European Parliament representing part of the area. We also noted that Strathkelvin District is at present divided among three Assembly constituencies, namely Mid Scotland and Fife, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West. Secondly, we estimated that under the counter-proposal approximately five-sixths of the total 1983 electorate of the three parliamentary constituencies involved would remain in their present Assembly constituency.

64. In all these circumstances we decided to accept the assistant Commissioner's recommendation that we should modify our provisional recommendations to give effect to the counter-proposal.

Revised recommendations

65. On 15 December 1983 we published our revised recommendations which differed from our provisional recommendations published in July in that

(a) the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. would include Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency in place of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota);

(b) the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. would include Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency instead of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 503,407 (2.3% above the electoral quota);

(c) the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. would include Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency instead of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 504,131 (2.5% above the electoral quota).

Representations on the revised recommendations

66. Representations welcoming the revised recommendations were received from Mr Adam Fergusson, M.E.P. for Strathclyde West, Mr Alasdair Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland, the Scottish Conservative Party, the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, and Kilmarnock and Loudoun Conservative and Unionist Association. More than 30 objections were received, from the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, almost 20 Constituency Labour Parties (among them those for Cunninghame South, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden), and other Labour groups (including Strathclyde Regional Labour Party and Cunninghame District Labour Party), five Labour M.P.s (including Mr George Foulkes and Mr David Lambie) three District Councils (Clydebank, Cunninghame and Strathkelvin) two Constituency Associations of the Scottish National Party, a local branch of the Post Office Engineering Union, and four individual objectors, one from Stevenston and three from Cumnock.

67. Most of the objections related to the revised proposals as they would affect Cunninghame South, and Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituencies, and sought a return to our provisional recommendations. Several objectors, notably Cunninghame District Council and Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party, submitted detailed statements. Cunninghame District Council represented strongly that Cunninghame South and Cunninghame North parliamentary constituencies should both be in Strathclyde West as originally recommended by the Commission. The Council complained that while the assistant Commissioner was not inclined to place weight on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or community of interest because there was no statutory requirement to take such matters into account, he did place considerable weight on the argument that continuity of electorates should be preserved where possible, although there was not a statutory requirement to take that matter into account. In the Council's view the statutory requirement that the electorate of an Assembly constituency should be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations was relevant in this case, and special geographical considerations plainly include such considerations as local ties and community of interest. Moreover, the Council did not accept that putting Cunninghame South constituency into South of Scotland would achieve continuity of electorates. They pointed out that Cunninghame South is significantly different from the former Central Ayrshire constituency. Even the revised recommendations involve the transfer of the electorates of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie from the South of Scotland to Strathclyde West, and the electorate of Stevenston from Strathclyde West to the South of Scotland. The main points made by Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party against the revised recommendations were that Cunninghame District would be divided between Assembly constituencies and it was better to have one M.E.P. than two; the differences between the electorates and the electoral quota were marginally worse under the revised recommendations than under the original proposals; the links with Cunninghame North in social, economic and political terms are much stronger than those with the parliamentary constituencies in the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Regions and the South of Scotland E.A.C.; there was a possible conflict of interest between the needs of an industrial Assembly constituency, such as Strathclyde West, containing a New Town, and those of a rural agrarian area, especially in considering the division of E.E.C. funds. The Constituency Labour Party accepted that Kilmarnock and Loudoun may have natural affinities with the north, but all the arguments put forward by Kilmarnock and Loudoun to avoid being put into South of Scotland are much more valid as far as Cunninghame District is concerned. On the question of continuity of electorates the Constituency Labour Party suggested that the logical solution would be to take out the Stevenston part of Cunninghame South and put it into Strathclyde West. Mr David Lambie, M.P. (Member for Cunninghame South) represented that to divide Cunninghame District between Strathclyde West and the South of Scotland in order to transfer Kilmarnock and Loudoun District back to Strathclyde East was illogical and took no account of local ties and community of interest. He pointed out that Cunninghame South is an urban constituency made up solely of Irvine New Town and Stevenston, and its affinities were with the rest of Cunninghame District and industrial West Central Scotland, not with the rural areas of the South of Scotland. On the other hand, Kilmarnock and Loudoun District was a more rural area whose ties were more with South Ayrshire than with industrial Lanarkshire. Mr George Foulkes, M.P. (Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) considered that by dividing Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies, the Commission had unnecessarily breached one of the principal criteria which, he said, they must take into account, ie the integrity of local authority boundaries, when a satisfactory numerical solution could be achieved by having Kilmarnock and Loudoun, rather than Cunninghame South, in the South of Scotland E.A.C. Several of these points were also made in the other representations we received concerning the placing of these two parliamentary constituencies in Assembly constituencies.

68. Strathkelvin District Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party and several other Constituency Labour Parties, and two Constituency Associations of the Scottish National Party, objected to the exclusion of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency from Strathclyde East and to its inclusion in Strathclyde West, arguing that the whole of Strathkelvin District should be in Strathclyde East, as under the Commission's original proposals. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party reiterated the point made at the Inquiry that Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency predominantly comprises the former parliamentary constituencies of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire. As the rest of these former parliamentary constituencies were included in the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. it would be unrealistic to take Strathkelvin and Bearsden out of that Assembly constituency. Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party suggested that as the adjacent constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, and Monklands West were included in the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C., it would be in the interests of the local communities to leave all three parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde East, as under the Commission's original proposals.

69. About 20 of the objectors requested, or demanded, a further public inquiry to enable those affected by the revised recommendations to voice their objections. These included the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, Strathclyde Regional Labour Party, Cunninghame District Council, Mr David Lambie M.P., Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Parties, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party.

70. We examined all these representations carefully but came to the conclusion that they did not raise any new points which constituted sufficient grounds for altering our revised recommendations. It seemed to us that many of the objections were based on the misunderstanding that the statutory requirements for determining the boundaries of Assembly constituencies are the same as those for determining the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies, and therefore include having regard to the boundaries of local authority areas and to the breaking of local ties. We referred in Chapter Two to our intention, however, to have regard as far as possible to these factors, as well as to the boundaries of the existing Assembly constituencies. It is the case, as Cunninghame District Council suggested in their submission, that the requirement that the electorate of an Assembly constituency should be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations is relevant. However, in our view, geographical considerations are balanced fairly equally as between our provisional and revised recommendations and, as already noted, neither the assistant Commissioner, nor we, regarded the difference in the balance of electorates between the two sets of recommendations as significant. The assistant Commissioner accepted that the division of Cunninghame District is a disadvantage but, having considered the submissions at the Inquiry, he concluded that this disadvantage was outweighed by the advantage in preserving continuity of Assembly constituency electorates. As already indicated above, we had accepted his conclusion and we saw no good reason to alter our view in the light of the representations. As regards the continuity of electorates in Cunninghame District, the transfer of the electorates of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie from the South of Scotland to Strathclyde West results, from their inclusion in the new Cunninghame North parliamentary constituency and is not affected by the revised recommendations. The transfer of the electorate of the Stevenston area (some 8,200) in Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency from Strathclyde West to the South of Scotland under the revised recommendations means that less than one fifth (17%) of the electorate of Cunninghame South would be in a different Assembly constituency from the one they are presently in, but the remaining

four-fifths of the electorate of Cunninghame South would remain in the South of Scotland E.A.C. We noted the view of Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party regarding a possible conflict of interest between the needs of Assembly constituencies which differ in character, particularly as regards the division of E.E.C. funds, but we did not consider that this was a factor which we could be expected to take into account. We also noted that the removal of the Stevenston area of Cunninghame South to Strathclyde West, which the Constituency Labour Party suggested, would be contrary to the statutory provisions. As regards Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency, we recognised that the division of Strathkelvin District is a disadvantage but we had accepted the assistant Commissioner's view that the counter-proposal should be preferred on the ground that it would better maintain continuity of electorates. We estimated that almost two-thirds of the electorate of the constituency would remain in Strathclyde West if it was included in that Assembly constituency. In all the circumstances we decided to adhere to our revised recommendations.

71. As explained in Chapter One, we are not statutorily required to hold a local inquiry into revised recommendations but we may do so if we consider it necessary to obtain more information or local opinion on certain matters. At the Inquiry held in November 1983 not only had statements been made in support of our recommendations but detailed statements had been made in support of the counter-proposal eventually accepted by us. The existence of the counter-proposal had been made widely known before the Inquiry, in particular by intimation to all who had written to us about the provisional recommendations, including the political organisations and others who had represented in support of those recommendations. Following publication of the revised recommendations in December, local opinion on the recommendations as they affected Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency had been fully and clearly voiced in the objections made to us in writing from these and other areas, all of which we had carefully considered. We felt therefore that from all these sources we were supplied with adequate information and expression of opinion to enable us to reach a judgement in the matter. Accordingly, we concluded that a further local inquiry was not justified.

Final recommendations

72. On 1 February we informed all those who had made representations and other interested parties that, following our consideration of the representations made to us, we had decided not to hold a second local inquiry and not to make any alterations to our revised recommendations published on 15 December, and that we accordingly proposed to adopt these revised recommendations as our final recommendations in our report. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our revised recommendations as follows:-

1. South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Cunninghame South; Dumfries; Galloway and Upper Nithsdale; East Lothian; Roxburgh and Berwickshire; and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota).
2. Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Glasgow Rutherglen; Hamilton; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Monklands East; Monklands West; Motherwell North; and Motherwell South, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 503,407 (2.3% above the electoral quota).

3. Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Greenock and Port Glasgow; Paisley North; Paisley South; Renfrew West and Inverclyde; and Strathkelvin and Bearsden, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 504,131 (2.5% above the electoral quota).

CONCLUSIONS

73. The contents and electorates of the eight Assembly constituencies which we have recommended are set out in Appendix E.

74. The electorates of four of the original Assembly constituencies which our predecessors recommended on the basis of the 1977 register of electors exceeded the then electoral quota, and ranged from 2.7% above in Strathclyde West E.A.C. to 17.2% above in Glasgow E.A.C. The electorate of one Assembly constituency, North East Scotland, was virtually the same as the electoral quota, and the electorates of three Assembly constituencies at that time were below the electoral quota: 2.2% below in Strathclyde East, 5.9% below in the South of Scotland, and 37.4% below in the Highlands and Islands. As Appendix F shows, the electorates of five of these present Assembly constituencies now exceed the electoral quota and range from 2.7% above in North East Scotland to 15% above in Mid Scotland and Fife, while the electorates of three remain below the electoral quota: 1.6% below in Strathclyde East, 4.3% below in the South of Scotland and 36.1% below in the Highlands and Islands.

75. Appendix F shows that the electorates of six of the recommended Assembly constituencies exceed the electoral quota and range from 2.3% above in Strathclyde East E.A.C. to 11.6% above in North East Scotland E.A.C. The electorates of the remaining two recommended Assembly constituencies are below the electoral quota and are 1% below in the South of Scotland E.A.C. and 37.5% below in the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. The fact that the electorate of the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. is so far below the electoral quota means that the average electorate of the remaining Assembly constituencies must exceed the quota.

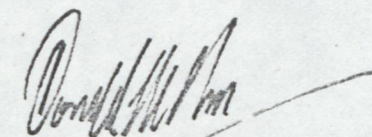
76. Leaving aside the Highlands and Islands, the electorates of the original Assembly constituencies on the basis of the 1977 electoral register ranged from 5.9% below the electoral quota to 17.2% above, ie a range of 23.1%. On the basis of the electoral register for 1983 the figures were 4.3% below to 15% above, ie a range of 19.3%. The effect of our recommendations, if accepted, is to produce Assembly constituencies, leaving aside the Highlands and Islands, with electorates in April 1983 which range from 1% below to 11.6% above the electoral quota, ie a range of 12.6%.

77. We received no representations about the names which we proposed for the Assembly constituencies, which are the same as the present names. We therefore recommend that the present names be adopted for the new Assembly constituencies.

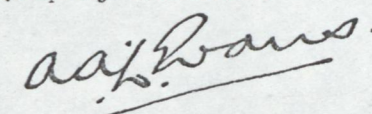
78. This concludes our supplementary report on our review of the boundaries of European Assembly constituencies in Scotland following the creation in 1983 of new parliamentary constituencies.

79. We have received considerable assistance from Dr. C. M. Glennie who, as Registrar General for Scotland, served as an assessor to the Commission. We have also had much help from Major G. P. G. Robinson, Royal Engineers, who, as Regional Controller for Ordnance Survey in Scotland, represented the Director

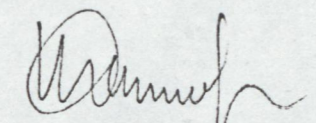
General of Ordnance Survey as an assessor to the Commission until 2 September 1983, and from his successor as the Director General's representative, Mr. A. Macdonald, Director of Surveys and Map Production, Ordnance Survey. We also wish to record our appreciation of the services of our Secretary, Mr. A. Simmen. His assistance, advice and guidance have been invaluable.



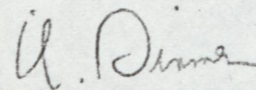
DONALD M. ROSS
(Deputy Chairman)



A. A. L. EVANS



URLAN A. WANNOP



A. SIMMEN
Secretary

7th March 1984

REQUIREMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ACT 1978,
AS AMENDED BY THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ACT 1981

SCHEDULE 1

Assembly Constituencies

1. -(2) There shall be a total of 79 Assembly constituencies, of which-
- (a) 66 shall be in England;
 - (b) 8 shall be in Scotland;
 - (c) 4 shall be in Wales;
 - (d) 1 shall be that of Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE 2

Part II

Division of Great Britain into Assembly Constituencies

9. In Great Britain-
- (a) each Assembly constituency shall consist of an area that includes two or more parliamentary constituencies; and
 - (b) no parliamentary constituency shall be included partly in one Assembly constituency and partly in another.
10. The electorate of any Assembly constituency in Great Britain shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

Part III

Interpretation

12. In Part II of this Schedule and this paragraph in their application to a part of Great Britain for which there is a Boundary Commission-

"electoral quota" means the number obtained by dividing the electorate of that part of Great Britain by the number of Assembly constituencies specified for that part in paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to this Act;

"electorate" means-

- (a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that Assembly constituency in force on the enumeration date;
- (b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that part of Great Britain in force on the enumeration date;

"enumeration date" means, in relation to any supplementary report of a Boundary Commission under this Schedule, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section 2(4) of the 1949 Act.

"the relevant registers" means the following registers under the Representation of the People Acts, namely-

- (a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the registers of parliamentary electors to be used at an Assembly election in that Assembly constituency;
- (b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the registers of parliamentary electors for the parliamentary constituencies in that part.

TEXT OF THE COMMISSION'S EXPLANATORY LEAFLET
1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

This leaflet describes the procedures to be followed in this review of European Assembly constituencies. The provisions under which the Commission operate are set out in the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, as amended by the European Assembly Elections Act 1981.

Following the making of an Order in Council to establish new parliamentary constituencies the Boundary Commission are required to proceed on a review of the European Assembly constituencies (EACs) and to make a supplementary report with their recommendations to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

2. In terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1983 made on 16 March, new parliamentary constituencies came into operation for the next general election held after 30 March 1983. The Commission's formal notice to the Secretary of State of their intention to review the EACs was published in the Edinburgh Gazette on 26 April 1983. This latter date thus became the "enumeration date" for the EAC review, ie the number of parliamentary electors on the electoral register on that date became the basis of the Commission's review.

3. The Commission are required to recommend eight EACs within Scotland. These EACs must comprise whole parliamentary constituencies and have electorates which are as near the electoral quota (ie the average electorate of the EACs in Scotland) as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. The electoral quota for this review is 491,929.

4. The Commission are required by statute to follow procedures during this EAC review which are similar to those of the recent general review of parliamentary constituencies. They publish their provisional recommendations in newspapers, listing at least one place within each parliamentary constituency at which the details and maps illustrating their effect are open to public inspection. These places are usually local council offices and libraries.

5. Representations may be made to the Commission about their recommendations within one month after the first publication of the notice. The Commission may, if they think fit, hold a local inquiry in respect of any constituency or constituencies. If any regional, islands area or district council, or any body of electors numbering five hundred or more, objects to the Commission's recommendations, the Commission must hold a local inquiry into the constituency concerned before proceeding further. A local inquiry is always conducted by an independent assistant Commissioner, appointed by the Secretary of State, who reports his findings to the Commission with any recommendations he wishes to make.

6. If the Commission decide that they should revise their proposals in any way, their new proposals are published in the newspapers as before. Once again the notices list places at which the details can be studied and state that representations about the recommendations may be made to the Commission within one month of publication. The Commission are not obliged in any circumstances to hold a second local inquiry into their recommendations for the constituencies, but they may do so if they consider that one is justified.

7. When the Commission are satisfied that no (further) revisions of their provisional recommendations are necessary, they report to the Secretary of State with their final recommendations. He is required to lay the report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the proposals. However, if he considers that the Commission's recommendations should be modified, he must also present a statement of the reasons for modifying them with the draft Order in Council. If both Houses of Parliament approve the draft Order in Council, and Her Majesty in Council makes an Order in the terms of the draft, the new constituencies come into being at the next general election of representatives to the European Assembly.

CONTENTS AND ELECTORATES IN 1977, 1979 AND 1983 OF EXISTING
EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES
(AS AT 16 FEBRUARY)

Contents	Electoralates		
	1977	1979	1983
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS	296,473	301,427	314,309
Orkney and Zetland	27,748	29,167	30,399
Western Isles	22,642	22,566	23,020
Caithness and Sutherland	29,541	29,906	30,660
Ross and Cromarty	33,136	33,181	35,332
Inverness	61,999	63,130	66,022
Moray and Nairn	44,818	46,360	50,965
Banff	33,141	33,178	33,405
Argyll	43,448	43,939	44,506
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND	473,419	487,230	505,248
East Aberdeenshire	52,072	55,073	59,455
West Aberdeenshire	63,509	68,867	77,756
Aberdeen North	65,154	65,679	65,954
Aberdeen South	66,177	66,143	66,682
North Angus and Mearns	40,738	43,632	47,245
South Angus	56,610	58,071	59,672
Dundee East	64,531	65,059	64,963
Dundee West	64,628	64,706	63,521
MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE	532,851	543,646	565,472
Central Fife	60,721	62,236	65,728
Dunfermline	63,533	65,530	69,383
East Fife	58,887	59,999	62,214
Kirkcaldy	61,186	61,772	62,484
Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire	66,171	67,328	70,097
West Stirlingshire	56,249	58,175	61,206
Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth	66,060	66,998	67,760
Kinross and West Perthshire	37,920	39,011	41,979
Perth and East Perthshire	62,124	62,597	64,621
LOTHIANS	534,256	541,903	557,340
Midlothian	96,254	102,697	106,514
West Lothian	83,514	86,445	92,736
Edinburgh Central	39,417	37,911	38,014
Edinburgh East	58,125	58,002	57,915
Edinburgh Leith	38,283	37,442	37,228
Edinburgh North	46,303	45,573	46,066
Edinburgh Pentlands	59,270	59,231	60,419
Edinburgh South	58,358	59,181	60,838
Edinburgh West	54,732	55,421	57,610

Contents	Electoralates		
	1977	1979	1983
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND	445,540	455,131	470,584
Berwick and East Lothian	60,502	61,602	64,280
Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles	59,283	60,368	61,161
Dumfries	63,887	64,986	67,909
Galloway	40,903	41,536	42,825
South Ayrshire	51,454	51,454	52,373
Ayr	54,169	55,337	56,700
Central Ayrshire	64,911	68,028	71,540
Lanark	50,431	51,820	53,796
STRATHCLYDE EAST	462,962	468,736	483,708
Bothwell	61,104	62,160	64,556
East Kilbride	72,548	74,140	76,834
Kilmarnock	61,151	60,920	62,243
Hamilton	51,546	52,331	53,431
North Lanarkshire	55,979	57,174	61,088
Rutherglen	48,807	49,979	51,557
Coatbridge and Airdrie	60,298	60,990	62,751
Motherwell and Wishaw	51,529	51,042	51,248
STRATHCLYDE WEST	486,087	500,575	517,452
East Renfrewshire	63,526	65,147	67,951
West Renfrewshire	73,316	79,339	85,066
Greenock and Port Glasgow	61,630	62,360	61,915
Paisley	64,004	64,294	63,962
East Dunbartonshire	69,045	74,197	79,799
Central Dunbartonshire	49,794	49,850	50,477
West Dunbartonshire	54,541	54,987	57,003
Bute and North Ayrshire	50,231	50,401	51,279
GLASGOW	554,463	538,371	520,107
Glasgow Cathcart	49,730	49,103	47,215
Central	21,011	19,984	17,909
Craigton	44,512	44,855	44,293
Garscadden	52,762	52,895	50,500
Govan	28,157	25,113	24,178
Hillhead	40,885	40,085	39,795
Kelvingrove	37,153	33,806	32,447
Maryhill	50,846	50,768	51,010
Pollok	59,808	59,514	59,828
Provan	55,243	53,117	48,674
Queen's Park	36,278	34,580	33,013
Shettleston	33,873	32,139	31,013
Springburn	44,205	42,412	40,232

LIST OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE
COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL AND REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provisional recommendations for all EACs published on 28 July 1983.

(a) Objections

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
<u>District Councils</u>		
Bearsden and Milngavie Kilmarnock and Loudoun Perth and Kinross	Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Scottish Liberal Party (in relation to Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West EACs only; see also below).	*Mrs Winifred Ewing, MEP for Highlands and Islands. Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for Strathclyde West. Mr Bill Walker, MP for North Tayside.

*Mrs Ewing's objection was subsequently withdrawn.

(b) Representations expressing agreement or indicating that the proposals had been noted

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
<u>Regional Councils</u>		
Central * Fife * Grampian Highland Lothian Tayside	The Labour Party (Scottish Council)* and the following Constituency Labour Parties:- Central Fife* Clydebank and Milngavie* East Lothian* Falkirk East* Falkirk West* Glasgow Central* Kincardine and Deeside* Kirkcaldy* North East Fife* North Tayside* Perth and Kinross* Stirling* Strathkelvin and Bearsden*	Mr Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West.* Mr David Lambie, MP for Cunninghame South.* Mr Hugh McCartney, MP for Clydebank and Milngavie.* Mr David Marshall, MP (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour MPs).*Mr Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee West.* Councillor D Skene, * Pitlochry.
<u>District Councils</u>		
Angus* City of Aberdeen City of Edinburgh Clackmannan Cumnock and Doon Valley Cunninghame* East Lothian Kirkcaldy Roxburgh Stirling* Strathkelvin* Tweeddale West Lothian	Labour Group on Kyle and Carrick District Council* Scottish Liberal Party (in relation to all EACs except Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West; see also above).* Kirriemuir Branch, North Tayside Liberal Association*	

*These representations supported the Commission's proposals.

2. Revised recommendations for South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West EACs published on 15 December 1983.

(a) Objections

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
<u>District Councils</u>		
Clydebank Cunninghame Strathkelvin	The Labour Party (Scottish Council) and the following Constituency Labour Parties:- Ayr Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Cunninghame North Cunninghame South Dumfries East Lothian Greenock and Port Glasgow Hamilton Motherwell South Paisley North Renfrew West and Inverclyde Strathkelvin and Bearsden Cunninghame District Labour Party Girdle Toll and Bourtreehill Labour Party, Irvine Gourock Labour Party Saltcoats Labour Party Strathclyde Regional Labour Party East Lothian District Council Labour Group Scottish National Party, Cumbernauld East Branch Scottish National Party, Strathclyde East Euro- Constituency Association	Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South. Mr George Foulkes, MP for Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley. Mr David Lambie, MP for Cunninghame South. Mr George Robertson, MP for Hamilton. Mr John Home Robertson, MP for East Lothian. Post Office Engineering Union, Greenock Branch. Mr A McLatchie, Stevenston. E Paterson, Logan, Cumnock. W Paterson, Logan, Cumnock. A Winslow, Logan, Cumnock.

(b) Representations supporting the revised recommendations

Scottish Conservative Party Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Kilmarnock and Loudoun Conservative and Unionist Association	Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for Strathclyde West. Mr Alasdair Hutton, MEP for the South of Scotland.
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NOTE: The City of Glasgow District Council and Wigtown District Council agreed to make no representations on the revised recommendations. These amended proposals did not affect the Glasgow EAC or the allocation of Wigtown District as part of Galloway and Upper Nithsdale parliamentary constituency in the South of Scotland EAC.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 26 April 1983
HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS		307,543
	Argyll and Bute	48,101
	Caithness and Sutherland	31,203
	Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	64,277
	Moray	61,657
	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	48,883
	Orkney and Shetland	30,401
	Western Isles	23,021
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND		548,840
	Aberdeen North	63,811
	Aberdeen South	58,091
	Banff and Buchan	61,194
	Gordon	66,259
	Kincardine and Deeside	60,325
	Angus East	59,868
	Dundee East	63,482
	Dundee West	63,348
	North Tayside	52,462
MID SCOTLAND & FIFE		529,609
	Clackmannan	48,193
	Falkirk East	52,668
	Falkirk West	49,924
	Stirling	56,938
	Central Fife	55,088
	Dunfermline East	50,459
	Dunfermline West	49,633
	Kirkcaldy	53,649
	North East Fife	51,018
	Perth and Kinross	62,039
LOTHIANS		528,480
	Edinburgh Central	57,373
	Edinburgh East	51,605
	Edinburgh Leith	61,044
	Edinburgh Pentlands	59,983
	Edinburgh South	63,071
	Edinburgh West	61,719
	Linlithgow	58,661
	Livingston	53,854
	Midlothian	61,170
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND		486,830
	Ayr	65,828
	Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley .	56,785
	Clydesdale	61,123
	Cunninghame South	49,370
	Dumfries	58,285
	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	52,445
	East Lothian	63,283
	Roxburgh and Berwickshire	42,176
	Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	37,525

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 26 April 1983
STRATHCLYDE EAST		
	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	503,407
	East Kilbride	44,873
	Glasgow Rutherglen	62,466
	Hamilton	60,082
	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	62,388
	Monklands East	62,249
	Monklands West	49,883
	Motherwell North	51,135
	Motherwell South	57,332
		52,999
STRATHCLYDE WEST		
	Clydebank and Milngavie	504,131
	Cunninghame North	51,605
	Dumbarton	53,889
	Eastwood	58,105
	Greenock and Port Glasgow	60,287
	Paisley North	60,387
	Paisley South	51,104
	Renfrew West and Inverclyde	52,855
	Strathkelvin and Bearsden	54,355
		61,544
GLASGOW		
	Glasgow Cathcart	526,589
	Glasgow Central	51,683
	Glasgow Garscadden	51,749
	Glasgow Govan	51,281
	Glasgow Hillhead	52,401
	Glasgow Hillhead	57,495
	Glasgow Maryhill	52,537
	Glasgow Pollok	54,089
	Glasgow Provan	48,566
	Glasgow Shettleston	52,658
	Glasgow Springburn	52,658
		54,130

ELECTORATES IN 1983 OF EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES, AND PERCENTAGE VARIATION FROM THE ELECTORAL QUOTA

Constituency	Existing Constituency		Recommended Constituency	
	Electorate	% Variation	Electorate	% Variation
Highlands and Islands	314,309	-36.1	307,543	-37.5
North East Scotland	505,248	+ 2.7	548,840	+11.6
Mid Scotland and Fife	565,472	+15.0	529,609	+ 7.7
Lothians	557,340	+13.3	528,480	+ 7.4
South of Scotland	470,584	- 4.3	486,830	- 1.0
Strathclyde East	483,708	- 1.6	503,407	+ 2.3
Strathclyde West	517,452	+ 5.2	504,131	+ 2.5
Glasgow	520,107	+ 5.8	526,589	+ 7.0
Total	3,934,220*		3,935,429*	

*The difference of 1,209 arises from the February 1983 date taken for the existing constituencies (ie the date of publication of the 1983 electoral register) and the April 1983 date taken for the recommended constituencies (ie the enumeration date for the review). Accordingly, the electoral quota differs slightly: 491,778 for the existing constituencies, and 491,929 for the recommended constituencies.

LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES AND THE RECOMMENDED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Parliamentary Constituency	European Assembly Constituency
Aberdeen North	North East Scotland
Aberdeen South	North East Scotland
Angus East	North East Scotland
Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Ayr	South of Scotland
Banff and Buchan	North East Scotland
Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	South of Scotland
Central Fife	Mid Scotland and Fife
Clackmannan	Mid Scotland and Fife
Clydebank and Milngavie	Strathclyde West
Clydesdale	South of Scotland
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	Strathclyde East
Cunninghame North	Strathclyde West
Cunninghame South	South of Scotland
Dumbarton	Strathclyde West
Dumfries	South of Scotland
Dundee East	North East Scotland
Dundee West	North East Scotland
Dunfermline East	Mid Scotland and Fife
Dunfermline West	Mid Scotland and Fife
Eastwood	Strathclyde West
East Kilbride	Strathclyde East
East Lothian	South of Scotland
Edinburgh Central	Lothians
Edinburgh East	Lothians
Edinburgh Leith	Lothians
Edinburgh Pentlands	Lothians
Edinburgh South	Lothians
Edinburgh West	Lothians
Falkirk East	Mid Scotland and Fife
Falkirk West	Mid Scotland and Fife
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	South of Scotland
Glasgow Cathcart	Glasgow
Glasgow Central	Glasgow
Glasgow Garscadden	Glasgow
Glasgow Govan	Glasgow
Glasgow Hillhead	Glasgow
Glasgow Maryhill	Glasgow
Glasgow Pollok	Glasgow
Glasgow Provan	Glasgow
Glasgow Rutherglen	Strathclyde East
Glasgow Shettleston	Glasgow
Glasgow Springburn	Glasgow
Gordon	North East Scotland
Greenock and Port Glasgow	Strathclyde West

Parliamentary Constituency

European Assembly Constituency

Hamilton	Strathclyde East
Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	Highlands and Islands
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	Strathclyde East
Kincardine and Deeside	North East Scotland
Kirkcaldy	Mid Scotland and Fife
Linlithgow	Lothians
Livingston	Lothians
Midlothian	Lothians
Monklands East	Strathclyde East
Monklands West	Strathclyde East
Moray	Highlands and Islands
Motherwell North	Strathclyde East
Motherwell South	Strathclyde East
North East Fife	Mid Scotland and Fife
North Tayside	North East Scotland
Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Paisley North	Strathclyde West
Paisley South	Strathclyde West
Perth and Kinross	Mid Scotland and Fife
Renfrew West and Inverclyde	Strathclyde West
Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Roxburgh and Berwickshire	South of Scotland
Stirling	Mid Scotland and Fife
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	Strathclyde West
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	South of Scotland
Western Isles	Highlands and Islands





PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

16 March 1984

Dear George

DC
16/3/84

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND: REPORT ON REVIEW OF EUROPEAN
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 8 March to Leon Brittan enclosing the report on Scottish constituencies. I note that you wish to go ahead with laying it and a draft Order before Parliament on 22 March, and I understand that Leon Brittan will not be raising any objections of substance. Unless any other members of H Committee raise any objections by Monday 19 March, you may take it that you have agreement to proceed. The arrangements for debate can be considered when your Report has been published - by which time I hope we shall be clearer about the timing of the English report.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

George Younger

The Rt Hon George Younger TD MP

PARLIAMENT: Boundary Commission

Feb '81

