



(Imm. Minister.  
 Agree XI what?  
 Yes no  
 25x

MR C A WHITMORE

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN EUROPE - DIRECTOR GENERAL XVII (ENERGY)  
 EC COMMISSION

The post of Director General XVII is at A1 level (broadly equivalent to Deputy Secretary or above) and is held by Mr Leonard Williams, formerly of the Department of Energy. Williams will retire in March next.

Energy remains near if not at the top of the international agenda. Having the DGXVII post does not ensure that our views will prevail in Commission proposals or Community decisions, but not having it will certainly make this substantially more difficult to achieve. It is considered important therefore that we put forward a choice of strong candidates for the post.

P Le Cheminant, aged 54, is a Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy currently serving in the Cabinet Office. He joined the Ministry of Fuel and Power in 1949 and has remained in that area but with spells in the Cabinet Office, No 10, the Ministry of Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry. He is well known in EC energy circles and in the International Energy Agency. He is fluent in French. His wife was born and brought up in France. My colleagues and I are sure that he would do the job well and that his background and expertise would stand him in good stead.

C Herzig, aged 54, is an Under Secretary in the Department of Energy. He joined the Ministry of Fuel and Power in 1951 and has remained in that area but with spells in the Ministries of Supply, Aviation and Technology, the Privy Council Office and the Department of Trade and Industry. He is fluent in Italian and can also speak French and German. He is well known and respected in industry and internationally. He is enthusiastic and dedicated. He has long been considered promotable to Deputy Secretary; unfortunately the right opportunity has not arisen.

C J Audland, aged 54, A3 (Under Secretary) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently Deputy Secretary General in the European Commission Secretariat (an A1 post). He joined the Foreign Service in 1948; his experience there includes a tour in the seat dealing with European energy matters. He is fluent in French, German and Spanish and also has some Italian.

My senior colleagues and I are unanimous in the view that:

- a. Le Cheminant is our best qualified and most suitable candidate for the post;
- b. Herzig would be good as a second choice (he is a strong candidate for a post with the International



Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna but we cannot be sure he will get it and therefore should not omit him as a possible DGXVII candidate);

and c. if the Commission find it necessary to have an internal candidate, we should support Audland.

The Secretary of State for Energy has been consulted on this proposal, and is content with what is proposed.

x | I should be grateful for the Prime Minister's approval that we should put forward Le Cheminant and Herzig (in that order) as preferred UK candidates for DGXVII, and that we should support Audland if for any reason an internal Commission candidate is preferred.

IB

IAN BANCROFT  
29 October 1980



10 DOWNING STREET

Buro Pol

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR IAN BANCROFT  
CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Senior Appointments in Europe - Director  
General XVII (Energy) EC Commission

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I have shown the Prime Minister your minute of 29 October 1980. She agrees that you should put forward Mr. Le Cheminant and Mr. Herzig in that order as the preferred UK candidates for the DG XVII post and that we should support Mr. Audland if an internal Commission candidate is preferred.

C. A. WHITMORE

3 November 1980

*Wram*