

Ref. A03450

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister

Hope that Mrs Richard & Tugendhat  
may see these two docs? *Print 4/11*

When we sought the Prime Minister's approval to show European Commissioners designate certain material, she asked what type of papers had been shown in the past, and what access would be proposed in future.

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2. Mr. Wright said in his minute of 12th August to Mr. Sanders (A0288) that Commissioners designate have not been and would not be put on the circulation list of any Cabinet or Cabinet Committee papers, or given classified papers. We should like to make an exception to that rule for the benefit of Mr. Richard - and indeed of Mr. Tugendhat, if he would like it. We think that it would be helpful for Mr. Richard and probably advantageous for the Government if Mr. Richard were allowed to read (but not retain) copies of two reports by officials:

No. - what envisaged as possibility of some countries going down 12th VAT.

EQS(80) 45

Report by officials on our strategy for the negotiations on restructuring the Community budget

EQS(80) 52

Note by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on our interests and policy in the next phase of negotiations on enlargement

|| with only other discussion if approved.

3. I attach copies of both documents. The first has been discussed and generally approved by Ministers in OD, and the second is to be considered in OD(E) shortly, but the copies shown to Mr. Richard would be those circulated in the Official Committee (EQS).

Returned to CO 5/11/80

4. They would, we think, be a useful "new readers begin here" for Mr. Richard, both on the problems of restructuring and enlargement and on the British interests in and policy towards those problems.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

(approved by Sir R Armstrong and signed on his behalf)

4th November, 1980

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Ans for

SIR ROBERT. ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 4 November proposing that two EQS papers should be shown to Messrs. Richard and Tugendhat. The Prime Minister would be content for the second of the two papers (EQS(80)52) to be shown to the Commissioners designate once it has been approved by Ministess. She does not, however, wish the first paper (EQS(80)45) to be shown to them.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

KRB

5 November 1980

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