



Prime Minister.

Agree that Mr

Palmer's name should
go forward?

AKL

17xi

Handwritten initials: MS MB

MR C A WHITMORE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: DIRECTOR GENERAL VII (TRANSPORT)

The present incumbent of the post DG VII at Brussels, a Mr Le Goy, will be retiring early in the New Year. This provides an opportunity to propose a British candidate for a top post in the staff of the Commission and I recommend that the name of Mr John Palmer, an Under Secretary in the Department of Transport, should be put forward.

Mr Palmer, who is just 52, served in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and in the Department of the Environment before moving in 1976 to his present post as head of the Railways Directorate. His work there has been outstanding. He speaks French fluently and is married to a Frenchwoman. He has been an Under Secretary since 1971.

It would, I am advised, have been desirable tactically to put forward more than one candidate. Despite a thorough search however I have to report that Palmer is the only credible candidate who is available to be put forward.

It would also be desirable, to show the UK's interest in the post, for our candidate's name to go forward as soon as possible after Mr Le Goy's formal notice has been given. This will probably happen very soon. I should therefore be grateful for the Prime Minister's early approval that we should put forward Palmer as the UK candidate for DG VII.

The Minister of Transport has been consulted and would be content for this to be done.

Handwritten initials: JAB

IAN BANCROFT
17 November 1980

SENIOR STAFF IN CONFIDENCE



Buro Pol.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR IAN BANCROFT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:
DIRECTOR GENERAL VII (TRANSPORT)

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute of 17 November 1980 and she agrees that Mr. John Palmer's name should be put forward as a candidate to succeed Mr. Le Goy.

JW.

18 November 1980

SENIOR STAFF IN CONFIDENCE