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P.M. has approved.
h.g. P.M.S. & XI
Secretary of State

Private Secretary ✓

Copied to:

- PS/Lord Privy Seal
- PS/PUS
- Lord Bridges
- ECD(I)
- Mr Franklin - Cabinet Office

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COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

1. I attach a self-explanatory draft letter to M. Thorn from the Secretary of State.
2. I have not included a reference to Mr Tugendhat's wish to add responsibility for Credit and Investment to his Budget portfolio. This is a third line department, which would have to be prised away from M. Ortoli who has it now. If we mention it in this letter the risk is that we will impair the effectiveness of our sponsorship of Mr Richard for Social Affairs.
3. If the Secretary of State approves this draft, we will want to instruct Sir M Butler or Mr Thomas to deliver it; and we will need to brief our EC posts on our objectives.
4. We will also need to consider warning the Irish we are going for their target. The brief for the Prime Minister's visit to Dublin will be drafted accordingly, with the suggestion that we try to steer the Irish towards Fish, where they have important interests, most of which are parallel and compatible with ours, and where an Irish Commissioner would also mean the moving of the existing Irish Director-General, about whom we are less than enthusiastic.

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2 December 1980

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I wrote to you on ~~17~~ November to follow up our conversation on Commission portfolios when you visited London in October.

Since then the picture about nominations to the new Commission has become clearer and only the name of the second German Commissioner is now lacking. I understand that generally speaking it is your intention not to change the responsibility of existing Commissioners, who are re-appointed. As you know Christopher Tugendhat would like to continue with the budget and we would welcome that.

But the principle of continuity does pose a problem for Ivor Richard, since his first choice portfolios, which I mentioned to you, development and industry, are held by returning commissioners. In these circumstances he feels, and the British Government supports this view, that he would be well qualified to handle Social Affairs. This is an aspect of the Commission's work which arouses a good deal of interest and support in this country and also one where a politician left of centre has a natural advantage. He also feels that it is a responsibility which will help him in the undoubtedly difficult task he will have in keeping open his lines with his own party. I hope you will feel able to take these considerations into account when allocating the portfolios.

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No perjury



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Gaston

When you were in London on 27 October we discussed briefly the question of portfolios in the next Commission. While decisions on this are, of course, a matter for the Commission itself, I thought it might be useful if I confirmed in writing the British Government's views on the portfolios that might be attributed to the two British nominees.

Christopher Tugendhat would like to retain the budget portfolio and has the British Government's full support in this.

As regards Ivor Richard's possible responsibilities, he has, I know, a personal interest in both development and industry. He is well qualified for both of these posts and would have the British Government's support for either of them, if this fitted in with your plans.

J
P de

(CARRINGTON)

His Excellency M. Gaston Thorn