



22

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1981

mb

Commission Portfolios: Message to Mr. Haughey

In the absence of Mr. Nally, I spoke to Mr. Kirwan in the Taoiseach's office in Dublin and asked him to convey the Prime Minister's regret to the Taoiseach about the way the situation had developed in Brussels the night before last. I spoke in accordance with the draft message which you had sent to me earlier and a copy of which I enclose for convenience.

Mr. Kirwan said that he thought Mr. Haughey would be most grateful to have had this message. Mr. Haughey, as an experienced politician, understood our position and no lasting damage would be done. Mr. Kirwan added that the Irish authorities agreed with the point I had made about the efforts of some of the sitting Commissioners to expand their portfolios. He commented that Mr. Davignon's ambitions had not left much room for the new arrivals.

I think this was a useful exercise. Whatever Mr. O'Kennedy's views, it seems clear that the authorities in Dublin bear no ill-will.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Registry
No.

DRAFT LETTER

Type I +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:-

THE TAOISEACH

From

PRIME MINISTER

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Now that the distribution of portfolios in the new Commission has been settled, I should like to say how sorry I am that there was a clash between Commissioners from our two countries, and that it should have received such wide publicity.

The basic trouble was that some of the sitting Commissioners tried to expand their portfolios and did not have much room for the newcomers. It is a great pity that this had to involve our Commissioners and yours.

I was most concerned when it became apparent that there appeared to be an attempt to reduce the portfolio of one existing Commissioner only. This would have been inconsistent with what was happening with other portfolios; it was also unfortunate that the idea should have been put without the Commissioner concerned being consulted.

It was for these reasons that I decided to contact M. Thorn for clarification of what was being proposed with regard to Christopher Tugendhat's responsibilities.

I am glad that it was possible to resolve the matter so satisfactorily in the end and I am quite confident that, with the present distribution of responsibilities, the Commission will be able to work harmoniously together and with the Member States for the progress of the Community,

/and particularly

and particularly the tackling of the many important problems which we have to face in the coming months. Meanwhile, I look forward to continuing to work with you as closely as we have in the past.



19
Rush
(2)

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister .

ms

In view of the lapse of
time & the onset of the
weekend, I conveyed your
message informally to the
Taoiseach's Office. I thought,
I hope correctly, that you would
be content with the time
suggested by the P.C.O. As
my letter records, the message
was well received.

Rush

GRS 200

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY MADRID 090800Z

DESKBY RABAT 090900Z

FM UKREP BRUSSELS 081750Z JAN 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 32 OF 8 JANUARY

AND TO MADRID (PS/LPS AND FRANKLIN) RABAT (PS/SOS)

INFO COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS BONN LUXEMBOURG ATHENS
INFO SAVING BRUSSELS

MY TELEGRAM NO 30 : COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

1. YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THE LINE WHICH ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN AT THE IRISH PERMREP, MR O'KENNEDY TOOK WITH IRISH JOURNALISTS AFTER PRESIDENT THORN'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

2. IN THE EVENT, HE HAD DECIDED AGAINST PRESSING HIS CLAIM TO THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO (RICHARD HAS CONFIRMED THIS TO US). IN HIS VIEW, IT LACKED SCOPE. THE FACT WAS THAT THE VAST BULK OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MONEY WAS SPOKEN FOR IN ADVANCE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT HE HAD MANAGED TO SECURE WAS IMPORTANT. THE 30 MAY MANDATE WAS THE KEY PROBLEM FACING THE COMMUNITY AT THE PRESENT TIME. WITHIN THE COMMISSION IT WOULD FALL TO HIM TO PREPARE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL. MOREOVER, HE WOULD EXPECT TO ACCOMPANY M THORN BOTH TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN COUNCILS WHEN THE MANDATE WAS UNDER DISCUSSION.

FCO ADVANCE TO:

FCO - PS/MR HURD PS/PUS BRIDGES HANNAY SPRECKLEY FENN JOY

CAB - ELLIOTT

NO 10 - PRIVATE SECRETARY

BUTLER

[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

FCO/WHITEHALL

ECD

FCO

PLUS FCO

Euro Pd.

PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL
MR FERGUSSON
MR BULLARD
~~MR HANNAH~~ Ps/no. 10, Downing ST
LORD BRIDGES
Ps/Pus
Ps/MR HURD

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

HD/ECD (E)(I)(4) ✓
HD/NEWS
HD/.....
HD/.....
HD/.....

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

CABINET OFFICE

D O T

PLUS OGDS

MR M D M FRANKLIN
MR D M ELLIOTT
MR A M GOODENOUGH
MR S WENTWORTH
MRS A BLACKBURN

H M TREASURY

M A F F

SIR K COUZENS
MR ASHFORD

SIR B HAYES

GRS 200

MS

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKREP BRUSSELS 081338Z JAN 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 27 OF 8 JANUARY

AND TO MADRID (FOR PS/LPS AND FRANKLIN)

INFO COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS BONN LUXEMBOURG
ATHENS

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS

MY THIRD IPT: COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

FOLLOWING IS FIRST DRAFT OF TEXT ON BUDGET RESTRUCTURING MANDATE

MR O'KENNEDY IS CHARGED WITH A SPECIAL MISSION OF COORDINATION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF THE WORK ON THE MANDATE OF 30 MAY 1980 GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL.

THIS INCLUDES IN PARTICULAR THE FOLLOWING TASKS:-

MR O'KENNEDY ASSISTS THE PRESIDENT AT THE MEETINGS OF OPEN GROUP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OR CHAIRS THIS GROUP IN THE CASE OF THE ABSENCE OR NON-AVAILABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT;

THE PREPARATION, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE PRESENTATION IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROPOSALS

TO THE COUNCIL IN LIAISON WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF THE WORK ON THE MANDATE OF 30 MAY 1980 GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL.

THIS INCLUDES IN PARTICULAR THE FOLLOWING TASKS:-

MR O'KENNEDY ASSISTS THE PRESIDENT AT THE MEETINGS OF OPEN GROUP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OR CHAIRS THIS GROUP IN THE CASE OF THE ABSENCE OR NON-AVAILABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT:

THE PREPARATION, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE PRESENTATION IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL IN LIAISON WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNED.

TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WORK WILL BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GROUP OF OFFICIALS PRESIDED OVER BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

FCO ADVANCE TO:
FCO - PS/MR HURD PS/PUS BRIDGES HANWAY SPRECKLEY
CAB - ELLIOTT
NO 10 - PRIVATE SECRETARY

BUTLER

[Advanced, as requested.]

NNNN

FCOPLUS FCO

PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL

PS/M^r HURD

MR BULLARD

MR HANNAY - *m^r Fyeman*

LORD BRIDGES

PS/PUS

RESIDENT CLERK

HD/ECD ~~(4)~~ ~~(4)~~ (2) E(2)

HD/NEWS

HD/....

HD/....

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PS/N^o 10 DS.CABINET OFFICED O TPLUS OGDS

MR M D M FRANKLIN

MR D M ELLIOTT

MR A M GOODENOUGH

MR S WENTWORTH

MRS A BLACKBURN

H M TREASURYM A F F

SIR K COUZENS

MR ASHFORD

SIR B HAYES

IMMEDIATE

GRPS 200

CONFIDENTIAL

ADVANCE COPY

FM UKREP BRUSSELS 081337Z JAN 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 26 OF 8 JANUARY 1981

AND TO MADRID (FOR PS/LPS AND FRANKLIN)

INFO ROUTINE COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS BONN LUXEMBOURG
ATHENS

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS

MY SECOND I P T:

COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT ON THE BUDGET RESTRUCTURING MANDATE

1. THE COMMISSION CONFIRMS THE DECISION TAKEN ON 23 JULY 1980 (COM(80) PV 569 - POINT XXIV A 1) THAT WORK IN EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL ON 30 MAY 1980 WILL BE DIRECTED AND FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRESIDENT DELEGATES TO MR O'KENNEDY CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES, NOTABLY THE FOLLOWING:

FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRESIDENT DELEGATES TO MR O'KENNEDY CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES, NOTABLY THE FOLLOWING:

- MR O'KENNEDY ATTENDS WITH THE PRESIDENT AT MEETINGS OF THE OPEN GROUP, OR CHAIRS THIS GROUP IN THE CASE OF ABSENCE OR NON-AVAILABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT:

- THE PREPARATION, IN LIAISON WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNED AND WITHOUT AFFECTING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, OF PROPOSALS TO THE COMMISSION IN THIS FIELD.

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND THE SERVICES CONCERNED IN THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THESE TASKS.

4. MR O'KENNEDY ASSISTS THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNED DURING DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL OF THESE MATTERS.

FCO ADVANCE TO:

FCO - PS/MR HURD, PS/PUS, BRIDGES, HANNAY, SPRECKLEY

CAB - ELLIOTT

NO 10 - PRIVATE SECRETARY

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ADVANCED AS REQUESTED