



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Community Affairs

The Lord Privy Seal might be invited to comment on the implications of Commissioner Gundelach's sudden death on 12th January. It is for the Danish Government to nominate his successor, but no firm names have yet emerged. They are likely to want to keep the Agriculture portfolio, but the Irish, Italians and Dutch will also have their eyes on it. The Fisheries portfolio will probably go straight to the Greek, Mr. Kontogeorgis (it was due to go to him in any case within a few months). Meanwhile the Agriculture Council due on 19th-20th January has been postponed. The two British Commissioners are unlikely to be directly affected, even if a partial reshuffle proves necessary, although Mr. Tugendhat is trying to reopen the question of Mr. O'Kennedy's role in the budget restructuring exercise.

2. The Lord Privy Seal might report on his visit to Spain on 8th January. On Community matters, the Spaniards pressed hard for faster progress on their accession negotiations, especially during the forthcoming United Kingdom Presidency, but were non-committal on the trade concessions sought for the United Kingdom by Mr. Nott during his earlier visit.

3. The Minister of Agriculture might report on his talks with M. Mehaignerie, his French counterpart, on 14th January.

4. Next week the Foreign Affairs Council will meet on 20th January.

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(Robert Armstrong)

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