

Europe
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MR ALEXANDER

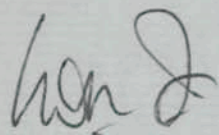
c Sir Robert Armstrong

A1 POSTS IN THE COMMISSION

1. The briefs for the calls on the Prime Minister by Mr Tugendhat and M Thorn suggest that the Prime Minister should stress our desire to see British candidates succeed the present British Directors General for Energy and Transport.
2. Having settled on the allocation of portfolios, the Commission is now reviewing the top official appointments (Director General and Deputy Director General) where a number are leaving including two of our four Directors General. Decisions are likely to be taken within the next week or two. We have told the Commission that our preferred choice for Director General for Energy is Mr Le Cheminant; although if the Commission decide on an internal candidate we would support Mr Audland. We have put forward Mr Palmer (an Under Secretary in the Department of Transport) as our candidate for Director General for Transport. The Dutch are pressing to improve their position at A1 level and are promoting the Permanent Secretary of their Department for Industry for the Energy job. There has even been a suggestion that Sir Roy Denman should be moved from his present job as Director General for External Trade to take over Energy (thus presumably opening his present post for a Dutchman). This will certainly not happen but is indicative of the in-fighting now going on.
3. There is no need for the Prime Minister to enter into detail with M Thorn but it ~~would be~~ helpful if she could make clear to him that she personally attaches importance to maintaining a proper balance commensurate with the position of France and Germany (at the moment both France and Germany have five full Directors General whereas we have only four). Other Governments will certainly be lobbying him. The message is a

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simple one: we expect to keep the Energy and Transport posts;
or if there are to be changes offered something better or at least
as good.



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