



Prime Minister

*Yes no*

*Agree that we offer Pooley, Fitchew and Avery?*

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

*FERS*

MR. BUTLER

*14.1.*

*In Appls. Section on Civil Service files.*

My minute to you of 19th November 1982 (Ref: A082/0172) recommended that Mr. David Williamson, currently Deputy Director General, Agriculture, in the European Commission, should succeed Mr. David Hancock as the Head of the European Secretariat in the Cabinet Office. The Prime Minister agreed to this.

2. As I explained in that minute, one of the problems in bringing Mr. Williamson back from Brussels to fill this appointment is that he will vacate a key post in the European Commission which we want to keep for the United Kingdom. We are likely to have to fight hard to retain the post, as we are already over represented in the Commission at A1 level even though we are seriously under-represented in the Agriculture Directorate-General. It is likely that we shall face strong competition from the Dutch (who held the post prior to British entry into the Community) and the Germans.

3. I have discussed this with my colleagues most closely concerned and also sought advice from Sir Michael Butler in Brussels. We were advised that it was important to offer the Commission a choice of plausible candidates so as not to appear to be treating the post as ours by right. We have found three strong candidates to propose: Mr. Peter Pooley, currently Fisheries Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Mr. Geoffrey Fitchew, an Assistant Secretary in the Treasury, who is on the short-list for promotion to Under-Secretary; and Mr. Graham Avery, who is already on loan to the Commission but at the relatively junior A3 level. I attach brief biographical details on all three.

4. Mr. Pooley is the strongest candidate. He is the most senior of the three, and only returned to London in August 1982 following a period as Minister (Agriculture) on the staff of the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Community. During this period he represented Britain in the Special Committee for Agriculture and he chaired the Committee very successfully during our Presidency. He is a well-known figure in Community circles and

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

well regarded. There is also reason to believe that the Director-General, Monsieur Villain, would support his candidacy, although Monsieur Villain has also indicated that he would expect to be offered a choice. There is no doubt that Mr. Fitchew has the ability to do this job - he is exceptionally able and has experience of Brussels and the CAP - but neither Monsieur Villain nor his Commissioner are likely to want a Treasury official in DG VI. Mr. Avery is rather junior to be considered for this post, but he could do the job well, and the Commission likes to consider internal candidates. By formally proposing him now we shall increase his chances of getting the A1 post next time.

5. To sum up, Mr. Pooley is the best candidate, and we should do all we can to get him into this key post. To enhance his chances we should give the Commission a choice and also put forward the names of Mr. Fitchew and Mr. Avery.

6. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Prime Minister is content with this course of action.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th January 1983



Mr. Peter Pooley, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food(MAFF)

Mr. Pooley is 46 and was educated at Brentwood School and Clare College, Cambridge before joining MAFF as an Assistant Principal in 1959. Between 1961 and 1963 he was seconded to the Foreign Office and took part in the abortive negotiations for British accession to the Community. He was promoted Principal in 1964 and Assistant Secretary in 1971 and held posts as Head of Fisheries Division and Personnel Division before going on loan to Civil Service Department in 1977. On promotion to Under Secretary in 1979 he was again seconded to the Foreign Office as Minister (Agriculture) on the staff of the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Communities and returned to London in August 1982 as Fisheries Secretary in MAFF.

conqueror



Mr. Graham Avery, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food(MAFF)

Mr. Avery who is 39 was educated at Kingswood School, Bath and Balliol. He joined MAFF as an Assistant Principal in 1965 and was promoted Principal in 1969. He held posts in an External Relations Division and subsequently an EEC Division before being posted to the European Commission in 1973 on the staff of Sir Christopher Soames' Cabinet. On his return to London in 1976, Mr. Pooley became Private Secretary to the Minister and the following year returned to the Commission to take up his current post as an A3 in the Directorate General for Agriculture; he was promoted Assistant Secretary, in absentia, in 1981.

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Mr. Geoffrey Fitchew, Treasury

Mr. Fitchew is 43 and was educated at Uppingham School, Magdalen, Oxford and the London School of Economics. He joined the Treasury in 1964 as an Assistant Principal and was promoted Principal in 1969 after a period as Private Secretary to the Minister of State. He held Principal posts concerned with fiscal policy, commercial policy and defence expenditure before being promoted Assistant Secretary in 1975 dealing with International Economics. Between 1977 and 1981 he was seconded to the staff of the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Communities as Economic and Financial Counsellor and since his return has been Head of Agriculture Division in the Treasury.

CONQUEROR

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2:6 AA

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute of 14 January (A083/0127) about nominations for the post in the European Commission currently held by Mr David Williamson.

The Prime Minister is content that we should try to secure this post for Mr Peter Pooley and should also nominate Mr Geoffrey Fitchew and Mr Graham Avery.

R.L.B.

17 January 1983

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