

Ref. A083/1965

MR BUTLER

Agree Mr. Carey
mt

Prime Minister
Agree Mr. Carey as first
choice and Mr. Cooper as second?

FERR
5-7.

European Court of Audit

In the light of your minute of 24 June I have discussed further with the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office alternative candidates for the United Kingdom member of the European Court of Audit.

2. I have approached Sir Anthony Rawlinson. He does not wish to be considered.

And it would open up an Under Secretary post in the Treasury!

3. In our judgement Mr C J Carey of the Treasury is the front-runner. At 50, he is relatively young and energetic. He has had previous experience in Brussels. He was formerly a Treasury Officer of Accounts and thus has the required familiarity with public finance.

4. Our second choice would be Mr R C M Cooper, CB (52). Mr Cooper is a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Trade and Industry, where he has been a Principal Finance Officer since 1979. He speaks three community languages other than English and has in the past expressed interest in community posts. He has served on loan to the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO) in Paris between 1962 and 1967. He must by now have concluded that his chances of promotion at home are not very good, given that he is not very much younger than Sir Brian Hayes.

5. A third possible candidate is Mr K J Sharp (56) the present Head of the Government Accountancy Service. He leaves that post in October. He would bring professional accountancy qualifications to the job, but has been somewhat of a disappointment as the Head of the Government Accountancy Service. I would rank him below the other two.

6. If the Prime Minister is content, I should now like to sound Mr Carey to see if he would be willing to consider the appointment. If he is not, I would then sound Mr Cooper.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5 July 1983

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE



KBPM

Ref. A083/2185

MR BUTLER

European Court of Audit

I am glad to be able to tell you that Mr C J Carey has indicated to me that he will be pleased to accept appointment to the European Court of Audit as successor to Mr Norman Price.

Al
Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence

22 July 1983



24 178

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDIT

Thank you for your minute of 5 July (A083/1965) which the Prime Minister discussed with you this morning.

The Prime Minister is content that you should sound Mr Carey to see if he would be willing to consider this appointment. If he is not, please would you let me know so that the Prime Minister can then consider again the alternatives.

F.F.R.B.

6 July 1983

Alan

I cannot find papers on the European Court of Audit - so perhaps these papers should go on your Esc appointments' files. Sir Norman Price was appointed to the Court in 1977.

J.P.
27/6.

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

European Court of Audit

At your meeting with the Prime Minister this morning, the Prime Minister referred briefly to your minute of 23 June (AO83/1789) and said that she was not inclined to nominate Mr. Downey as the United Kingdom member of the European Court of Audit in October, 1983. You said that you would accordingly think about alternative candidates and give further advice to the Prime Minister.

E.E.R. BUTLER

24 June, 1983



Prime Minister

You may like to have a word with Sir Robert Armstrong at the Business Meeting tomorrow morning.

Ref. A083/1789

MR BUTLER

European Court of Audit

FRB
23.6

Sir Norman Price will complete his term as the United Kingdom member of the European Court of Audit in October 1983. We have ideas for improving and slimming down the rather cumbersome structure of this Court; but change will not be possible this year, and we must therefore identify a candidate to succeed Sir Norman Price. The post is effectively in Her Majesty's Government's gift, although the European Parliament's Budget Committee may want to interview the nominee. The post calls for a knowledge of accountancy and public finance, a good personality and persuasive ability and, if possible, a familiarity with the working of the European Community. The present term of appointment is six years.

2. I have reviewed, with Mr Middleton and others concerned, a number of candidates for the post and this produced a short list as follows:

- Mr C J CAREY, aged 50 - an Under Secretary in the Treasury
- Mr G S DOWNEY, aged 55 - the Comptroller and Auditor General
- Mr K J SHARP, aged 56 - Head of the Government Accountancy Service

Mr R W L WILDING, aged 54 - a Deputy Secretary in the Treasury

3. Mr Carey joined the Treasury in 1957 and is a good all-round Under Secretary. He has in his favour two relevant pieces of experience; he was on the staff of our Permanent Representative to the EEC as Financial Counsellor 1974-77, and was Treasury Officer of Accounts 1978-81.

4. Mr Downey is in some ways rather too senior for this post. I was surprised, and not particularly pleased, when Mr Downey asked to be considered for this post: it seemed inexplicable that he should prefer this to the post of Comptroller and Auditor General, to which he succeeded under two years ago, and it would be unwelcome to have so early a change in that office. But, having talked to him, I have to accept that he has good personal reasons for asking that his name should go forward; and in terms of standing and experience he clearly outranks the other names.



5. Mr Wilding has had long experience in the central Departments but he also started his career in the foreign service.

6. Of these names, I would place Mr Wilding fourth choice. Mr Carey has the qualities and experience to do a good job in the post, even if he perhaps lacks the stature to give the United Kingdom the maximum chance of securing the Presidency of the Court when it falls vacant in a few years' time. Mr Sharp would bring professional accountancy qualifications to the job, and would be my second choice - my first if Mr Downey was to be passed over. If we accept that Mr Downey can be released, he certainly has the necessary stature; but can he and should he be released from the post of Comptroller and Auditor General? The Prime Minister may wish to have a word about this.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23 June 1983