

Ref. AO83/2029

MR BUTLER

Prime Minister

Content with these three names?

(I know Mr. Hay and Mr. Powell and both are first-class).

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8.7.

European Commission: A1 Appointments

Mr Michael Jenkins, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission, is due to return to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in January 1984. The Deputy Secretary-General is not a post that often provides opportunities to tip the balance directly in the UK favour, but it is nevertheless an influential post particularly now that it has a role in political co-operation and one which it would be useful to retain when the issues of Budget and Community financing are still in the forefront.

2. I recommend therefore that we should put British names forward. Strong competition from other Member States, in particular Germany and Italy, is expected. We have been advised that there will be a bias towards a candidate already on the staff of the Commission, and that the Commission would prefer to have three candidates from which to select.

3. There are three candidates I consider suitable:-

Mr Richard Hay, late of HM Treasury but now making his career in Brussels

Miss Pauline Neville-Jones, a Grade 4 officer in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Charles Powell, also a Grade 4 officer in the FCO and currently with our Permanent Representation in Brussels.

4. Mr Hay, age 41, is the strongest runner. He is currently an A1 in DGIX (Personnel and Administration); while he lacks experience of political co-operation work, he has many of the right personal qualities and is a highly competent Commission official of whom the Commission's Secretary-General, Monsieur Noel, thinks well.

Miss Neville-Jones, age 43, returned from the European Commission in 1982 following a 5-year tour. She was Chef de Cabinet to Mr Tugendhat for two years, after which she worked in the Office of the Secretary-General of the Commission for a further year. She

has experience on political co-operation work. Mr Powell, age 42, has current knowledge and experience of the Community.

5. To sum up, Mr Hay is the best UK candidate and has the advantage of being an internal runner. But the Commission prefers a choice, and Miss Neville-Jones and Mr Powell would be respectable alternatives. I recommend that we should nominate all three, indicating a clear preference for Mr Hay.

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

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 July 1983

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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

European Commission: A1 Appointments

Thank you for your minute of 8 July (A083/2029) about nominations for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission, which falls vacant when Mr. Michael Jenkins returns to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in January 1984. The Prime Minister is content that HM Government should put forward the three people mentioned in your minute, with a preference for Mr. Hay.

F E R BUTLER

11 July 1983