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GRS 250

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FM DUBLIN 111505Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 322 OF 11 JULY 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS UKREP BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN  
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS)

YOUR TELNO 256 TO ATHENS: PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. DONLON (SECRETARY DFA) RAISED THIS IN A REVIEW OF THE TASKS OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY AT A MEETING OF ALL EC HEADS OF MISSION (EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG) ON 10 JULY. HE SAID THAT DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE TAOISEACH WOULD TELEPHONE ALL THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT ON THIS TOPIC. HE WOULD ASK EACH IF HE HAD A NOMINEE AND IF HE WISHED TO CAST A NEGATIVE VOTE AGAINST ANY OF THE CANDIDATES. THERE WOULD PROBABLY THEN HAVE TO BE ANOTHER ROUND OF TELEPHONE CALLS. HE HOPED TO GET CONSENSUS IN A WEEK OR SO, OR AT LEAST BY 25/26 JULY WHEN HE WOULD ADDRESS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

2. DR FITZGERALD WILL BEGIN WITH KOHL. DONLON SAID THE IRISH WOULD PREFER A GERMAN CANDIDATE BUT HE REFERRED DOUBTFULLY TO BIEDENKOPF AND SAID THEY THOUGHT THAT NO GERMAN NOMINEE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE SAID THAT DELORS, CHEYSSON, A BELGIAN, AND A DANE WERE IN THE RUNNING AND MY DUTCH COLLEAGUE SAID THEY ALSO HAD A CANDIDATE. (ONLY THE FRENCH WERE NAMED) DONLON SAID THAT HE WOULD BET 2-1 ON ONE OF THE FRENCHMEN GETTING THE JOB AND 4-1 ON THE BELGIAN AND WOULD NOT BACK ANY OF THE OTHERS.

GOODISON

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HD/ECD (I)  
PS  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
SIR C TICKELL  
MR RENWICK

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CB BONN/FCO 14/13

DD FCO 131645Z

OO UKREP BRUSSELS

PP PARIS

GRS 400

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DESKBY 131645Z

DEDIP

FM BONN 131600Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 699 OF 13 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS (PERSONAL FOR SIR M BUTLER)

INFO PRIORITY PARIS (PERSONAL FOR SIR J FRETWELL)

FOR RENWICK

YOUR TELNO 372: PRESIDENCY OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. HANDELSBLATT, A SERIOUS ECONOMIC/BUSINESS DAILY, HAS A REPORT TODAY THAT DUMAS WOULD COME NEXT WEEK TO BONN AND THAT THE FRENCH AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT DECIDE TO PUT FORWARD A JOINT CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION.

2. I SPOKE TODAY TO NEUER IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, SINCE TELTSCHIK WAS TIED UP WITH OTHER BUSINESS FOLLOWING THE CHANCELLOR'S RETURN LAST NIGHT FROM MEXICO. AT FIRST NEUER SAID THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD ADD TO WHAT TELTSCHIK HAD TOLD ME ON 3 JULY (MY TELNO 658). WHEN I REMONSTRATED THAT THE GERMANS OWED US A CLEARER IDEA OF THEIR THINKING, HE AGREED TO CONSULT AND COME BACK TO ME. HE LATER TOLD ME, AFTER CONSULTING THE CHANCELLOR, THAT:

*Mr. Powell, No. 10*

*ms*

A) KOHL WOULD HAVE A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THE MORNING OF MONDAY 16 JULY, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A DECISION ON THE GERMAN POSITION.

B) IF THAT DECISION WAS NOT TO PUT FORWARD A GERMAN CANDIDATE, THE FRG WAS LIKELY TO SUPPORT 'THE FRENCH CANDIDATE'.

3. NEUER CONFIRMED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS THAT DUMAS WOULD BE HERE ON THE AFTERNOON OF 16 JULY AND WOULD SEE KOHL AND GENSCHER.

4. WHEN ASKED WHO MIGHT BE MEANT BY THE REFERENCE IN 2 (B) ABOVE TO 'THE' FRENCH CANDIDATE, NEUER SAID HE ASSUMED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BEFORE LONG PLUMP FOR A SINGLE CANDIDATE, ALTHOUGH TWO NAMES WERE STILL BEING HEARD IN PUBLIC SPECULATION.

5. I TOLD NEUER THAT HMG WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER THERE WAS TO BE A GERMAN CANDIDATE. OF THE NAMES ALREADY IN THE FIELD, ONE - DAVIGNON - SEEMED TO HAVE OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCE OF EC AFFAIRS. THE IDEA OF FRANCE OCCUPYING THE PRESIDENCY AGAIN SO SOON SEEMED TO ME ALL WRONG. I REMINDED NEUER OF TELTSCHIK'S UNDERTAKING (PARA 1 OF MY TELNO 658) THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ONCE HE HAD TAKEN HIS DECISION.

COMMENT

6. GENSCHER HAS HIMSELF TODAY SAID PUBLICLY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS REGARDING THE BRUSSELS JOB, THAT HE SEES HIS ROLE AND DUTY AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN BONN. AFTER SO MANY FDP STATEMENTS ON THESE LINES, IT SEEMS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL DO AN IMMEDIATE U-TURN AND GO FOR THE BRUSSELS JOB THIS YEAR. BIEDENKOPF, NEVER A STRONG CANDIDATE, HAS SEEMED TO BECOME WEAKER AS TIME HAS PASSED. IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY PROBABLE THAT THERE WILL BE NO GERMAN CANDIDATE. I FEAR THAT, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NATURAL GERMAN REACTION IS TO FALL IN WITH FRENCH WISHES.

MALLABY

NNNN

SENT 131654Z

MK

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GRS 300  
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DEDIP  
FM ROME  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 482  
OF 130700Z JULY 1984

INFO PRIORITY (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS) ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS  
UKREP BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG,  
PARIS.

YRTELNO 256 TO ATHENS: PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. THE HEAD OF CRAXI'S DIPLOMATIC OFFICE, BADINI, HAS TOLD HEAD OF CHANCERY THAT WHEN FITZGERALD TELEPHONED CRAXI ABOUT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION (DUBLIN TELNO 322), THE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE BECAUSE CRAXI HAD OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND. FITZGERALD HAD TOLD CRAXI THAT IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE FRENCH WOULD INSIST ON RUNNING A CANDIDATE.
2. WHEN SPEAKING TO FITZGERALD CRAXI DID NOT (NOT) NOMINATE AN ITALIAN, NOR DID HE EXPRESS ANY PREFERENCE AMONG THE EXISTING CANDIDATES. BADINI SAID THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED A GERMAN CANDIDATE HAD ONE BEEN FORTHCOMING. IF THE FRENCH PRESSED HARD FOR THE PRESIDENCY, ITALY WOULD 'EXAMINE THEIR CANDIDATE WITH GREAT ATTENTION' AND BY IMPLICATION WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT HIM. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, BADINI SAID, THE ITALIANS WOULD PREFER DAVIGNON AS THE BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FROM THE SMALLER MEMBER COUNTRIES. THEY MUCH PREFERRED DELORS TO CHEYSSON.
3. ON THE ITALIAN COMMISSIONERS, BADINI SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT GIOLITTI WOULD LEAVE (THOUGH THE PRESS SEEM MORE DOUBTFUL) AND THAT (PLEASE PROTECT) IT WOULD BE GOOD IF NATALI ALSO LEFT BECAUSE HE WAS USELESS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE PRESSING HARD FOR ONE OF THE TWO ITALIAN SLOTS, BUT SAID THAT CRAXI WOULD RESIST UNLESS (WHICH WAS MOST UNLIKELY) THE DC INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO PROPOSE A REPLACEMENT FOR NATALI. BADINI THEREFORE EXPECTED DC AND SOCIALIST NOMINEES TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONES. HE CONFIRMED THAT ITALY WOULD CONTINUE TO WANT TWO COMMISSIONERS AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THIS OTHER THAN ON DOMESTIC GROUNDS (BADINI HAD EARLIER BEEN IN TOUCH TO ASK ABOUT OUR OWN ATTITUDE).
4. LETTER FOLLOWS GIVING MORE DETAIL.  
BRIDGES

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HD/ECD(I)  
PS  
PS/MR RIFKIND

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SIR C TICKELL  
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FM THE HAGUE 121303Z JUL 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 239 OF 12 JULY

AND TO PRIORITY INFO (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR) ATHENS, BRUSSELS,  
COPENHAGEN, LUXEMBOURG, ROME, PARIS, BONN, DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS.

YOUR TEL NO 256 TO ATHENS : PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

1. DURING A CALL TODAY ON POSTHUMUS MEYJES I RAISED INTER ALIA THE QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENCY. THE DUTCH HAVE GLEANED NO MORE THAN OURSELVES OF GERMAN AND FRENCH INTENTIONS AND ARE DISMISSIVE OF CRISTOPHERSEN'S CANDIDITURE.

2. POSTHUMUS MEYJES CONFIRMED (BRUSSELS TEL NO 174) THAT BENELUX MINISTERS HAD CONSULTED ON THIS ISSUE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. HE SAID THE CONCLUSION HAD BEEN THAT, WHILE THE FIELD REMAINS SO OPEN, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS SHOULD EACH MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR THEIR OWN CANDIDATE, BUT WOULD BE READY TO DECIDE AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPED WHETHER TO PUT THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND A SINGLE BENELUX CANDIDATE OR SWITCH SUPPORT TO A GOOD FRENCH OR GERMAN CANDIDATE. VAN DEN BROEK HAD APPARENTLY THIS MORNING EXPLAINED THE NETHERLANDS POSITION IN THESE TERMS WHEN HIS IRISH OPPOSITE NUMBER TELEPHONED TO SOUND HIM OUT.

CHAPMAN

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HD/ECD(I)  
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FM ATHENS 110615Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO.,

TELNO 350 OF 11 JULY 1984.,

REPEATED AS ROUTINE INFO TO OTHER EC POSTS.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 256: PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. I DOUBT WHETHER THE GREEKS HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE PRESIDENCY. WHEN THE SUBJECT CAME UP AT A LUNCH GIVEN BY PANGALOS ON 9 JULY THERE WAS SOME DESULTORY DISCUSSION LED BY THE DANE. PANGALOS'S ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT WE SHOULD REACH A QUICK DECISION ON THIS AND ON THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS AFTER ENLARGEMENT. ON THE LATTER TOPIC HE WAS FIRMLY IN FAVOUR OF ONE COMMISSIONER PER MEMBER STATE.

2. THE GREEKS WILL GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY VIEW. THEY WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO OPPOSE DAVIGNON. THE WOULD PROBABLY PREFER HIM TO A GERMAN WHOM THEY WOULD REGARD AS ASSOCIATED WITH STRICT BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE.

R H O D E S

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FM BRUSSELS 111500Z JUL 34  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 174 OF 11 JULY  
INFO (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS) ATHENS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE,  
LUXEMBOURG, ROME, PARIS, BONN, DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS

YOUR TELNO 256 TO ATHENS: PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.  
1. ALTHOUGH DAVIGNON HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY NOMINATED IN WRITING,  
MARTENS HAS MADE IT CLEAR BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT HE HAS  
THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT. REYN IN TINDENANS' CABINET TOLD  
ME THIS MORNING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY PROMOTING DAVIGNON'S  
CANDIDATURE, WHICH THEY BELIEVED WOULD BE GOOD FOR BELGIUM AND FOR  
THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN  
BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG TO TRY TO REACH A COMMON  
POSITION WITHIN THE BENELUX GROUP. IT WAS NOW UP TO THE IRISH  
PRESIDENCY TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ABOUT ATTITUDES TO THE VARIOUS  
CANDIDATES IN THE FIELD.

2. THE OFFICIAL BELGIAN POSITION IS DESIGNED TO REBUT ANY  
SUGGESTION THAT BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR DAVIGNON IS LUKEWARM. BUT IT  
IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT  
WOULD PRIVATELY BE QUITE CONTENT IF DAVIGNON'S CANDIDATURE FAILED,  
LEAVING THE WAY OPEN FOR THE NOMINATION OF A FLEMISH LIBERAL AS THE  
BELGIAN COMMISSIONER. MOST BELGIANS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN THINK  
THAT DAVIGNON IS EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE  
LITTLE CHANCE IF OPPOSED BY A POLITICALLY STRONGER CANDIDATE  
BACKED BY FRANCE AND GERMANY. HIS REPUTATION HERE AS BRITAIN'S  
CHOICE FOR THE JOB IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED A DOUBTFUL ASSET.  
DAVIGNON HIMSELF IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES (OUR TELNO 164).

COLTMAN

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PS/PUS  
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WAS NOT  
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GRS 440

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FM BONN 041100Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 658 OF 04 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE CABINET OFFICE- PERSONAL FOR WILLIAMSON, UKREP

BRUSSELS- PERSONAL FOR SIR M BUTLER

PERSONAL FOR RENWICK

## PRESIDENCY OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. I ASKED TELTSCHIK, THE CHANCELLOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, LAST NIGHT ABOUT GERMAN INTENTIONS ON THE SUCCESSION TO THORN. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD NOT YET TAKEN A DECISION ON WHETHER TO PUT FORWARD A GERMAN CANDIDATE OR, IF SO, WHO THAT CANDIDATE SHOULD BE. TELTSCHIK'S PERSONAL ASSUMPTION WAS THAT, IF A GERMAN CANDIDATE WAS FIELDERD, IT WOULD BE BIEDENKOPF. TELTSCHIK EXPECTED THE CHANCELLOR TO TAKE A DECISION IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 16 JULY, AFTER RETURNING FROM HIS VISIT, BEGINNING TODAY, TO ARGENTINA AND MEXICO. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR RECALLED HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT THE GERMANS COULD ONLY ASK THE BRITISH TO BE PATIENT. THE CHANCELLOR WOULD NO DOUBT BE IN CONTACT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ONCE HE HAD TAKEN HIS DECISION.

## COMMENT

2. BIEDENKOPF HAS NEVER LOOKED A REALLY STRONG CANDIDATE. HIS CURRENT EFFORTS TO MEDIATE IN THE PRINTERS' STRIKE HAVE NOT SO FAR GONE WELL. AFTER FONTAINEBLEAU, THE GERMAN PRESS REPORTED THAT HE WAS OUT OF THE RUNNING AND THAT THE RACE WAS NOW BETWEEN CHEYSSON AND DAVIGNON. I WOULD NOT EXPECT KOHL TO ADVANCE BIEDENKOPF ENERGETICALLY UNLESS HE HAD DEFINITE HOPES THAT THE LATTER WOULD GET THE JOB.

13

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GRS 560  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 DESKBY 221600Z  
 FM BONN 221400Z MAY 84  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 510 OF 22 MAY  
 INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS PARIS

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YOUR TELNO 283: NEXT COMMISSION

1. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN MENTIONING BIEDENKOPF AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO THORN, THE CHANCELLOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER (TELTSCHIK) TOLD ME ON 20 MAY THAT NO DECISION IN FAVOUR OF BIEDENKOPF, OR ANY OTHER GERMAN CANDIDATE, HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN CABINET, WHOSE APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED.
2. TELTSCHICK REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ON BIEDENKOPF'S CHANCES OF NOMINATION AND, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE CHANCELLOR AT THE WEEK-END, CLAIMED TO HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE GERMAN DECISION WOULD EVENTUALLY FALL. THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR OF THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT (FISCHER) HAS ADMITTED TO US THAT BIEDENKOPF MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY. HE ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE DANISH NOMINATION OF HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN, THE GERMANS HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DANES. THE GERMANS WOULD BE READY FOR DISCUSSION AT SALON DE PROVENCE. TELTSCHICK MERELY RECOGNISED THAT, IF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION WAS NOT EXTENDED, THE GERMANS WOULD HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY. I MADE CLEAR THAT WE OPPOSED EXTENSION BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO BACK A REALLY GOOD GERMAN CANDIDATE.
3. WE SUMMARISED BIEDENKOPF'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN MALLABY'S LETTER OF 25 OCTOBER 1983 TO HANNAY. HE IS AN INTELLECTUALLY HIGH POWERED, ENGAGING, MULTI-TALENTED MAN IN A FAR HIGHER CLASS THAN THE PRESENT GERMAN COMMISSIONERS. HE IS CAPABLE OF THINKING IN CONCEPTUAL TERMS AND PRODUCING NEW POLICY IDEAS, NOTABLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UK, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, AND HAS A GENUINE REGARD FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUCCESS IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE UK'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
4. BIEDENKOPF HAS NO DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF THE EC (THOUGH HE HAS CLEARLY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS THERE) NOR HAS HE HAD MUCH TO DO WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MATTERS. HE HAS THE CAPACITY TO LEARN QUICKLY. INsofar AS HE HAS MADE HIS VIEWS ON THE EC PUBLIC, THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ALL THAT FAR FROM OUR OWN (AS THOSE WHO HEARD HIS EXCELLENT FINAL ADDRESS AT THIS YEAR'S KOENIGSWINTER CONFERENCE WILL AGREE).

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5. THE OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGE OF BIEDENKOPF IS THAT HE HAS NEVER SHOWN THE FORCE OF CHARACTER OR THE QUALITIES NECESSARY FOR STRONG CHAIRMANSHIP OR GOOD MANAGEMENT. ALTHOUGH CHARMING AND COURTEOUS, HE HAS AN INTELLECTUAL ARROGANCE WHICH ALIENATES MANY. HE ALSO SEEMS TO LACK REAL AUTHORITY OR BITE. DURING HIS TIME AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CDU (1973-77), HE LED AN IMPRESSIVE REGENERATION OF PARTY POLICIES BUT FAILED NOTORIOUSLY TO GET TO GRIPS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF CDU HEADQUARTERS. HE SHOWED A SIMILAR DISREGARD FOR MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION AS HEAD OF THE CDU IN NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA (THE LARGEST REGIONAL PARTY). THIS FAILURE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE PARTY'S REJECTION OF HIM AS LEADER FOR NEXT YEAR'S LAND ELECTION.

6. BIEDENKOPF FELL OUT WITH KOHL SOME YEARS AGO. THIS LARGELY ACCOUNTS FOR HIS LOSS OF EFFECTIVE POWER WITHIN THE CDU. HE STILL RETAINS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND, IF THINGS BEGAN TO GO WRONG FOR THE CHANCELLOR, COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE A FUTURE IN FEDERAL POLITICS. SHOULD THE GERMANS NOMINATE BIEDENKOPF FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION, IT WOULD BE HARD TO REPRESS ALL SUSPICION THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD SEEN THE APPOINTMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCLUDE HIM FROM THE MAIN STREAM OF GERMAN POLITICS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

7. THE BEST GERMAN CANDIDATE WOULD BE ALBRECHT. BUT HE IS NOT ON OFFER. I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER GERMAN ALTERNATIVE THAN BIEDENKOPF. WE ARE NOT COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING HIM. BUT THE GERMANS WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF WE DECIDED TO SUPPORT DAVIGNON. IF BIEDENKOPF IS PUT FORWARD BUT DAVIGNON IS OUR CHOICE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DELAY DISCLOSING THIS TO THE GERMANS WHILE THE BUDGET NEGOTIATION CONTINUES.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO: WILLIAMSON CABINET OFFICE  
TICKELL, RENWICK, FAIRWEATHER - FCO

TAYLOR

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MR RENWICK.

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