

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR KINNOCK: BRITISH EC COMMISSIONERS

Points to make:

Had hoped to achieve a smaller Commission with only one Commissioner from each Member State. This is the most which is justified by the amount of work. But some others - notably Italy and Germany with coalition Governments - were unwilling to accept this. So expect there to be a 17-man Commission after enlargement, with two Commissioners from each of the larger Member States.

The Government nominates the UK Commissioners but customary to consult the Opposition. Met Mr Callaghan in similar circumstances in 1980 and asked him to let me have two or three names for consideration. Grateful if you would do this.

Not good to keep the same person in Brussels too long. As you will have heard, not ready to nominate Ivor Richard for a further term. {True that Mr Tugendhat had served two terms but he was appointed in one Government and continued under another}.

Name of Joel Barnett comes naturally to mind. Was approached last time, but reluctant to give up his seat.

An alternative would be to go for two non-political commissioners.

Distribution of portfolios in the new Commission will be discussed in the autumn. The Budget portfolio will remain important. Other areas of interest will be the industry/energy/research portfolio at present held by

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

Viscount Davignon (though no-one else it will be likely to get their hands on quite such a large segment of work); and the developing countries portfolio which the French have had for far too long.

Hope you can let me have some suggestions quickly. Now that the Presidency of the Commission has been settled we need to move to nominate the British Commissioners fairly rapidly so that they can start to prepare themselves. (If asked: no absolute deadline, but would like to decide before Summer Recess if possible).

{If asked}: Not yet reached a decision on whom to nominate as the senior British Commissioner.

Background

In 1980 the Prime Minister met Mr Callaghan on 2 July and asked him to suggest names for the second British Commissioner post. Mr Callaghan said he would take soundings and let the Prime Minister have the names of two or three possible candidates. In the event, when the Prime Minister saw him again on 21 July, he proposed only the name of Mr Mulley. He had tried Joel Barnett who had not wanted to be considered. Although it is not explicit in the files, Mr Callaghan seems to have mentioned several other names but without actually proposing any of them. In subsequent discussions various names were considered including Lord George Brown, Shirley Williams, Lord Northfield and several others. In the end the choice fell on Ivor Richard, who Mr Callaghan must have mentioned as a possible at some stage. But this was not settled until the beginning of October.

The Chief Whip has been in touch through the normal channels. It is clear that Mr Kinnock is likely to press the claims of Ivor Richard again, if only to be able to say

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that he has done so. But he will be aware that you are not ready to agree to this.

C.D.P.

C D POWELL

18 July 1984