

PRIME MINISTER

BRITISH EC COMMISSIONERS

This probably cannot now be settled until the end of August, or early September, given that everyone is scattering for the holidays. Equally, it will need to be settled promptly then, if only because of the possible implications for a re-shuffle.

I suggest that with Geoffrey Howe tomorrow you try to clear up the following points:-

- (i) Is your first choice a pair of politicians or a pair of civil servants/businessmen?
- (ii) If you prefer a pair of politicians, you must get the Government nominee settled first before approaching a Labour candidate. Geoffrey Howe continues to have reservations about Arthur Cockfield. Give him until 27 August to come up with a candidate whom he can convince you is better? What about George Jellicoe?
- (iii) Assuming that you settle for politicians, what is the order of preference amongst Kinnock's suggestions (Barnett, Clinton-Davis and Moyle)? Are there other Labour politicians you would prefer to some of these?
- (iv) If you decide to go for officials/businessmen, do you agree on a Butler/Landau ticket? A note on Mr. Landau, who was suggested by Mr. Kinnock, is attached.

The key thing is to settle a deadline of end-August for implementing a decision so that candidates can be approached promptly thereafter.

1 August 1984