

F. B.

*ec master*

*SUBJECT*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: BRITISH COMMISSIONERS

The Prime Minister had a further discussion of this with Sir Geoffrey Howe today.

They agreed that, of the names submitted by Mr. Kinnock, Joel Barnett was by far the best. It was agreed that Sir Geoffrey Howe would sound him out as soon as possible to see whether he was interested. The Leader of the Opposition's Office should be informed of this. Of the other names on Mr. Kinnock's list only Stanley Clinton-Davis deserved serious consideration. He might be a fall-back if Joel Barnett was not interested.

There was also discussion of possible candidates on the Government side. The Prime Minister said that she thought Lord Jellicoe would be a good candidate. He had experience and good French. Sir Geoffrey Howe pointed out that he had performed well as Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board. The Prime Minister concluded that he would do well provided that Joel Barnett agreed to be a candidate, since he (Barnett) could provide the expertise in financial and budgetary questions. But if Joel Barnett was not prepared to be considered then she would need to think again about George Jellicoe. The Prime Minister also mentioned that Lord Selsdon would be a strong candidate, though she doubted very much whether he would want the job. She recalled that the Lord President had also mentioned Lord Colville as a possible candidate.

Sir Geoffrey Howe will now approach Joel Barnett. Mr. Kinnock's Office have been informed.

*C.D.P.*

2 August 1984