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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
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22 August 1984

P F Ricketts Esq  
Private Secretary to the Foreign and  
Commonwealth Secretary  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1

Pine Martin

Dr

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Dear Peter,

**NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Thank you for your letter of 9 August covering a paper on the new European Commission. The Chancellor has seen this and is generally content.

He agrees that we must push very hard indeed to secure the Budget portfolio. If, at the end of the day we cannot secure that, he believes that our second choice should be the Internal Market plus competition, with the Internal Market plus Services as a fallback. If we cannot secure our first choice, he thinks that we must insist on this. He would not think it desirable to press for Industry and Services alone - both the Internal Market and competition are of much more importance to the UK.

The Chancellor has noted Mr Jopling's suggestion of Sir Henry Plumb (and he entirely shares the view that we should try to avoid an Italian Agricultural Commissioner). However, he feels that any UK Commissioner holding the agricultural portfolio would be in an invidious position (as, indeed, to some extent would be one holding the Industry portfolio). That would be particularly so, in the case of agriculture, for a man with Sir Henry's background.

On the second Commissioner's portfolio, the Chancellor believes that we should go for either Regional Policy or Science, Research and Development.

Copies go to Charles Powell (No 10), Callum McCarthy (DTI), Michael Reidy (D/En) and David Harbourne (MAFF).

Yours ever,

JCS

Miss J C Simpson  
Private Secretary

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