



PM/84/141

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister.  
 Sir G. Howe suggests:

Sir N. Goodison  
 or  
 Sir R. Kennock and Stanley Clinton-Davis  
 Roland or Moyle.  
 I doubt that you will be  
 much impressed!

C.D.P. 31/8

European Community: British Commissioners

1. I promised to let you have any further thoughts I might have on possible candidates.
2. Labour, I think, is relatively straightforward. In that slot we need, if possible, a steady, hopefully hard working, team member - preferably chosen, all other things being equal, from Kinnoch's list. With Barnett a non-starter, I would go for Clinton Davis: he has relevant Ministerial and international experience, and is competent, mature and reasonably moderate. I would put Moyle second; another possible runner might be Philip Whitehead, but I am not sure he has the right personality. I do not believe Landau (the Co-op man) really deserves serious consideration.
3. On the Conservative side, we need someone whom we can count on to hold his own effectively at Vice-Presidential level within the Commission. There always is an inner group of Commissioners who wield disproportionate influence. Experience with the present Commission has shown us that the key to membership of that inner group is not rank but effectiveness. Our representative will qualify only if he impresses Delors as a substantial figure, with whom he will need and be able to work as a close colleague. Ideally our choice should be able to understand and speak some French. And I should much prefer it if we could find someone whose career has still to peak. Certainly we need someone with the drive and capacity to fight his corner well over the next four years.
4. The most natural place to look for someone with these qualities would be the House of Commons, where we have people like Rifkind, Hurd and Higgins whom we might consider. I know that you



do not want us to have any unnecessary by-elections at the present time. As you know, I believe it would be a pity (from the point of view of general, long term, confidence) if a government with a majority as large as ours was to be indefinitely inhibited in that way. But I shall not, as I said on Tuesday, go on about that at this stage.

5. In the Lords we have already discussed Mansfield, Windlesham, Colville, Selsdon and of course, George Jellicoe. As I said on Tuesday, Willie Whitelaw and I are both doubtful whether George Jellicoe would respond favourably to an invitation - but we should not know unless we tried. Of the others, I think only Selsdon has been of any interest to you. He has been a delegate to the Council of Europe and WEU for some years and he currently advises the Midland Bank on Community matters. But that experience is not in my view enough to qualify a relatively grey figure to be our senior Commissioner.

6. So I have had another go at producing an uninhibited list. The result is attached. As with all such lists, half the names have to be discarded almost as soon as they emerge! Dick Marsh goes as soon as I found out that he sits on the cross-benches. On reflection, neither Chataway or Trethowan really has the weight that is necessary. And we have already had a word about David Young.

7. Terry Burns, on the other hand, is the kind of "surprise choice" who might do the job very well. But he would be badly missed at the Treasury - and his move might, I suppose, be misinterpreted as signalling a change of policy. In the same way, I believe Ian Davison has many of the right qualities. But he took up his Lloyds appointment early in 1983 for a period of three to five years and presumably wants to complete that course. So he is someone whom we ought to keep an eye on in the future rather than today.

8. That leaves the two best in my bunch of eight new names:



Goodison and Pennock, both of whom are quite well-known individuals in their own right. The former has been an outstanding Chairman of the Stock Exchange. He is a strong and effective supporter of our policies. He is widely respected as a competent and forceful figure still very much on the up. He speaks at least some French. His appointment would be widely seen as a signal of the Government's continued determination to press for a wider range of free market policies in the Community, especially on trade in services. Goodison is said to be a bit restless in his present job and he might conceivably welcome a change. Ray Pennock has a great deal of relevant experience. He is the current President of UNICE, the European version of the CBI. He appears at the moment to be without a full-time job and might well welcome an offer. At 64 he is perhaps an older candidate than we might have wanted, but in my experience he is still full of life and effectiveness.

9. To sum up, if he is available I think Nicholas Goodison would be the strongest candidate on my list. I think Ray Pennock would be a very suitable second choice. I should only try George Jellicoe if neither of those was available. On the Labour side, I would go for Stanley Clinton Davis, with Moyle as an alternative.

10. I am copying this minute to the Lord President of the Council and the Chief Whip.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
31 August, 1984



<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>CURRENT JOB</u>
Sir N Goodison	Chairman, Stock Exchange
Lord Pennock	Ex-Chairman BICC, President CBI, President UNICE (roughly - European CBI)
Sir T Burns	Chief Economic Adviser, Treasury
I Davison	Arthur Anderson (Accountants). Also investigating Lloyds
C J Chataway	Vice-Chairman, Orion Bank
Sir I Trethowan	Chairman, Horserace Betting Levy Board
Lord Marsh	Chairman Newspaper Publishers Association, TV am
D I Young	Chairman, Manpower Services Commission



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31 AUG



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 September, 1984

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: BRITISH COMMISSIONERS

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Geoffrey Howe's minute of 31 August conveying his further thoughts on possible candidates for the posts of British Commissioners in the next Commission.

The Prime Minister has not commented in writing. But I have the impression that she is not very impressed by either of the two candidates in paragraph 8 of Sir Geoffrey's minute.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office) and to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

(C.D. Powell)

L. Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.