

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 November 1984

*Dear Mr. Kinross*

Thank you for your letter of 25 October.

I know of Mr. Clinton Davis' strong interest in the development portfolio in the new European Commission. I agree that it is a very important portfolio, and naturally I would be glad if Mr. Clinton Davis were to hold it.

As you know, however, the formal position is that the allocation of portfolios is a matter for the President-designate and the Commissioners-designate themselves to decide. So it is for the new British Commissioners themselves to make clear to M. Delors the responsibilities they would wish to exercise in the new Commission. I understand that Mr. Clinton Davis has already discussed the matter with M. Delors. In these circumstances, I should be grateful if you would treat my own views as confidential.

*Yours sincerely*

*Margaret Thatcher*

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

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a to*

*RB*





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the Leader of  
the Opposition

25 October 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Prime Minister

As you may know from other sources, Stanley Clinton Davis has expressed very strong interest in securing the Development portfolio in the European Commission.

From my enquiries I have established that, of the other Commissioners, only Signor Natali of Italy has professed a desire to obtain this position.

As you will know, Mr Clinton Davis is suited by experience and by personal commitment to the Development post and I believe that his appointment would serve the interests of efficiency in the area of EEC aid and development relations and policy.

I would be grateful if you could bear these matters in mind whenever an opportunity arises to exercise influence upon the President's decisions on appointments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Thatcher'.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister.



IN CONFIDENCE

Qz.04066

MR POWELL

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: PORTFOLIOS OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

You sent me a minute on 23 November about the portfolio which Monsieur Cheysson might get, if he is nominated (as is now widely assumed) as the second French Commissioner. Our own views are:-

(i) Development. We have taken the view - and told Monsieur Delors - that a French Commissioner should not hold the Development portfolio again because the French have held it for far too long. We know from many sources that Monsieur Delors is vigorously opposing the suggestion that Monsieur Cheysson should get the Development portfolio. Our present assessment is that Monsieur Delors will succeed. We want him to succeed both for reasons of principle and because Mr Natali would be acceptable in Development but unacceptable in Agriculture. From the United Kingdom point of view it might be better in the last resort that Monsieur Cheysson should hold the Development than that he should hold the Industry portfolio. But we do not think that it will come to this, as we think now that he will probably get neither.

(ii) Industry. We know that at one stage Monsieur Delors was considering Monsieur Cheysson for the Industry portfolio. Monsieur Delors, however, has now offered practically the whole of the Industry and the Internal Market portfolio to Lord Cockfield. Monsieur Cheysson has also gone against the Industry portfolio. The risk, therefore, seems very low.

(iii) Foreign Affairs. We understand that Monsieur Delors is now considering dividing the Foreign Affairs portfolio,



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perhaps into multilateral and bilateral issues. In this event, Monsieur Cheysson might obtain one of these portfolios.

I am sending a copy to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*DF Williamson*

D F WILLIAMSON

29 November 1984





## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. WILLIAMSON  
Cabinet Office

European Commission: Portfolio for  
Mr. Clinton Davis

Thank you for sending me a copy of your note of 22 November on this subject. I have shown it to the Prime Minister who was perturbed at the possibility that Mr. Cheysson might get the Industry portfolio. Lord Cockfield's subsequent minute suggests this is somewhat less likely and that the French are pressing for him to return to Development.

In case the subject is raised with her, I think the Prime Minister would find it helpful to have advice on whether we would prefer to see Cheysson back at Development, even though this vitiates the principle of rotation, rather than holding the Industry portfolio,

C. D. POWELL

23 November, 1984

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EST.



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Prime Minister  
This would be a reasonable outcome - though Cheysson in charge of industry is a daunting prospect.  
CDP 22/xi

Qz.04058

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: PORTFOLIO FOR MR CLINTON DAVIS

Mr Clinton Davis gave me a report today on his discussion yesterday with M. Delors about his portfolio. Mr Clinton Davis has agreed that he would take, if formally offered, a portfolio covering environment, consumer protection and transport. He told me that he had asked for a specific assurance from M. Delors that the portfolio would not be broken up when the Community is enlarged. He argued that it would not be possible to operate effectively on transport if it were to be assumed that this part of his portfolio would be removed after 2 years.

2. He said that, in discussions about the development portfolio (which had been Mr Clinton Davis' first choice), it was apparent that M. Delors was under pressure to put M. Cheysson in charge of development and that he was resisting this very strongly. Mr Clinton Davis' own view was that M. Cheysson would probably be appointed and would get the industry portfolio.

3. Mr Clinton Davis confirmed that the assumption underlying his discussions with M. Delors was that Lord Cockfield would be offered the internal market portfolio, reinforced by the inclusion of responsibility for financial institutions (banking, insurance etc).

D F WILLIAMSON

22 November 1984

cc: Mr Powell, 10 Downing Street  
Mr Braithwaite ) FCO  
Mr Renwick )  
Sir Michael Butler, UKREP

Mr Unwin, H M Treasury  
Dr Holdgate, Dept of Environment  
Mr Williams, Dept of Trade and Industry  
Mr Holmes, Dept of Transport

IN CONFIDENCE





*copy*  
*CD*

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A084/2897

ATTORNEY GENERAL

New European Commission

*will request if required*

Thank you for your minute of 24 October.

I am glad to learn that Mr Sutherland, the new Irish Commissioner, is ready to have discussions with Lord Cockfield and Mr Clinton Davis both on portfolios and on wider areas of cooperation. I believe that we should take him up on this offer. Mr Clinton Davis has now arranged a meeting with him for 14 or 15 November in Brussels. We have suggested to Lord Cockfield that he should also be in touch with Mr Sutherland in order to follow up your conversation.

2. I am sending copies to the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

*Robert Armstrong*

1 November 1984



CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1984

*Dear Charles,*

New Commission

In your letter of 25 October, you asked for a draft reply to Mr Kinnock's letter of the same date about Mr Clinton Davis and the development portfolio. This I attach.

We cannot discount the risk of the Prime Minister's reply - or at least its substance - becoming public. We therefore believe that it would be better for the Prime Minister to avoid any undertaking to press Mr Clinton Davis' case with M. Delors; if such an undertaking became public knowledge, it would be bound to cause difficulty with Delors, to the possible disadvantage of both British Commissioners.

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



Europ. Pol: Appt of Pres. Europ Comm. Pt 2.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AA



*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

NEW COMMISSION

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 25 October.

CAVEAT.....

I know of Mr Clinton Davis' strong interest in the development portfolio in the new European Commission. I agree that it is a very important portfolio, and naturally I would be glad if Mr Clinton Davis were to hold it.

As you know, however, the formal position is that the allocation of portfolios is a matter for the President-designate and the Commissioners-designate themselves to decide. So it is for the new British Commissioners themselves to make clear to M. Delors the responsibilities they would wish to exercise in the new Commission. I understand that Mr Clinton Davis has already discussed the matter with M. Delors.

Enclosures-flag(s).....

In these circumstances, I should be grateful if you would treat my own views as confidential





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 October 1984

New Commission

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Kinnock in which he asks for support for Mr. Clinton Davis in obtaining the Development Commissioner post in the new Commission.

BA | I should be grateful for a constructive draft reply agreeing that the Development Commissioner post is one which we should aim for but pointing out the obvious difficulties given Natali's interest and strong position as a serving Commissioner. You will wish to consider how far the Prime Minister should undertake to make Mr. Clinton Davis' aim known to Delors given its implication for our strategy on other posts.

It would be helpful to have a reply by tomorrow evening if possible.

C.D. Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TMS