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APC
File
Re. Turnbull to see 15 May 1984

A. J. C. 16/5.

VISIT TO BRUSSELS 30 MAY 1984

On 31 October last year at the invitation of my Minister, Mr Allan Stewart MP, Commissioner Giolitti (responsible for Directorate General XVI; Regional Policy) came to Glasgow to see the efforts made in Scotland to promote and make use of European Community instruments for regional development.

The focus of Mr Giolitti's visit was the use which the Industry Department for Scotland, at Mr Stewart's behest, is making of the European Regional Development Fund Non Quota section. In particular Mr Giolitti and Mr Stewart took the opportunity for a joint launch of the new Better Business Services Scheme, introduced with the aid of Non Quota funds.

Mr Stewart and Mr Giolitti both attach value to the contact made at Commissioner/Ministerial level and to the opportunity, which the Non Quota programme has provided, to introduce practical measures to help small firms in Scotland. Mr Stewart received from Mr Giolitti an open invitation to come to Brussels to discuss further uses of European Community funds in Scotland. Now that he has identified further applications in Scotland for Non-Quota fund which needs to be discussed with the Commission, Mr Stewart is keen to take up this invitation, and 30 May has been identified as a convenient date. It is expected that the bulk of the discussions will take place with DGXVI, though Mr Stewart may also take the opportunity to have meetings at Commissioner and official level with DGIII (Industrial Affairs) and DGV (Employment and Social Affairs). Jim Currie at UKREP has been kept in touch with these plans.

Mr Stewart will of course ensure that colleagues in the Department of Trade and Industry and other departments are kept informed of any developments which arise out of these discussions and which are of interest for the administration of European Community Funds throughout the UK.

I am copying this letter to John Coles at No 10, Murdo Maclean at the Chief Whips Office, Kate Rhind at DTI and Richard Hatfield in the Cabinet Office.

I am also sending a copy to Jim Currie at UKREP.

GERARD HETHERINGTON
Private Secretary

16 MAY 1984

