

Subject a master



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October 1984

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL POLICY:
PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR. GRIERSON

Mr. Grierson called on the Prime Minister this morning to discuss the report he had prepared for Vice-President Davignon on European Community Industrial Policy.

The Prime Minister said that she thought that Mr. Grierson's report hit the right note. The main priority must be to complete the Internal Market. It was also important to combat the Pavlovian tendency of the Commission to proliferate directives. They must be told very firmly not to interfere in industry. The busybody atmosphere must be changed, or the mess which the Commission had made of agriculture would be repeated with industry. The Prime Minister continued that she had some misgivings about Mr. Grierson's suggestion that the Commission should give more attention to non-high technology industries. Although some industrialists might welcome this, it would be a great mistake to encourage them to expect hand-outs. It must never be forgotten that the Commission's funds were all taxpayers' money, not manna from heaven.

Mr. Grierson said that he had recently seen Delors who was delighted by the appointment of Lord Cockfield as one of the British Commissioners. In Mr. Grierson's opinion, Lord Cockfield would be well qualified for the Industry portfolio in the new Commission. Whatever post he held, he should be able to contribute to the better management of the Commission and to restraining its interventionist excesses.

Mr. Grierson concluded by saying that he was ready to undertake any tasks in relation to the Community which would be of service to the Government.

I am copying this letter to Colin Budd (FCO) and to David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Callum McCarthy, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

(C.D. POWELL)