

note
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

17 October, 1984

Thuytsbaert is a snake
and anti-British. The Foreign
Secretary is right to prefer
Adonnino; in which case we
might just as well
get credit from the
Italians by telling them so.

Surely we should
ask first if Germany
wants the
chair.
Agree? CDP mb
17/10

European Community: Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on
a People's Europe

Four months after the Fontainebleau European Council the Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on A People's Europe, set up by Heads of Government, has still not been decided. The Committee has not yet met.

The Irish Presidency have been trying to find an acceptable candidate to chair the Committee. Dr Fitzgerald wrote on the subject to the Prime Minister in July. In her reply, the Prime Minister said:

"You suggest that the Chairman of the second Committee (the Ad Hoc Committee on A People's Europe) should be a person of European standing who could keep in direct contact with the Presidency in office. Since you envisage that the Committee will report to the European Council in December I think it would be very appropriate if your Government would take on the Chairmanship of this Committee, as well as that of the Committee on Institutional Affairs. This would mean that both Committees would get down to work with the minimum delay".

The Irish have decided that they are too thinly stretched by their own Presidency to take on the Chairmanship themselves. They have now proposed that the Belgian member of the Committee, Mr Prosper Thuytsbaert, a diplomat, should take on the chair. He is ready to do so. He is not, however, the only candidate. The Italians intend to put forward their Committee member, Pietro Adonnino, a Christian Democrat MEP. We have been told by the Italians that Signor Craxi will raise the matter with the Prime Minister during the Anglo-Italian Summit later this week; or that Signor Andreotti will do so with the Secretary of State.

The Foreign Secretary does not believe that we should seek the Chairmanship of the Committee ourselves. We shall wish to be free to promote our own interests on the internal market and to head off unrealistic proposals.



I enclose a copy of a brief we have prepared for the Prime Minister's use with Signor Craxi. It suggests that she might say that we see advantage in a connection between the Presidency and the Chairmanship of the group - a broad hint that we could accept Adonnino - but that the Irish have also been in touch to suggest a Belgian Chairman. This seems to us a matter for consultation between the Irish and Italians.

In practice, we think that Signor Adonnino would make an acceptable Chairman. Our representative on the Committee, David Williamson, knows him well from his own time in the Commission. He has also been moderately helpful to us over budget issues. We see no particular reason for the Belgian, M. Thuysbaert, to take on the chairmanship. The Foreign Secretary concludes that, though we might prefer Adonnino, we should be willing to go along with whichever of the candidates can command general support.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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GMV(84)3a Addendum
16 October 1984

BRIEF NO

ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT
18-19 OCTOBER 1984

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TOPICS


COMMUNITY GENERAL BRIEF
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A PEOPLE'S EUROPE
Brief by Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVES

1. The Italians have told us that they will raise either with the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State, the Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on a "People's Europe" one of the two Committees set up at Fontainebleau. The Italians will propose that their nominated representative, Pietro Adonnino (personality note attached), should become chairman of the Group, on the ground that most of the Committee's work will take place during the Italian Presidency. Dr Fitzgerald has meanwhile proposed that the Belgian representative (Prosper Thuysbaert) should chair the Committee. We think that Adonnino would make a better chairman from our point of view but should not commit ourselves to him; there is more than one candidate; the Irish Presidency will have to try to resolve their various claims.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Interested to learn of Italian candidate. The Irish have suggested that the Belgian representative should take the chair. We shall not be seeking the chairmanship ourselves. When Dr Fitzgerald first asked us about chairmanship of the Committee in July, I suggested that the Irish should take it on in their Presidency role. I continue to see advantage in a connection between the Presidency and the Chairmanship of the group. No



doubt you will be consulting further with Dr Fitzgerald. Our concern is that there should be a chairman who commands general support.

/BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

1. All Member States have now appointed representatives on this committee which was established at the Fontainebleau European Council but which has yet to meet. The Irish can make no headway for lack of agreement on a chairman. They are not now seeking the chairmanship themselves but have proposed that the Belgian representative (Prosper Thysbaert) should be chairman. Signor Adonnino, as an MEP, has been fairly sympathetic to us over the budget problem. He is also well known to Mr Williamson, our representative on the Committee, who thinks we could work constructively with him. We do not wish to take on the chairmanship ourselves. It would inhibit our ability to press our case as we would wish.

2. In the letter of 20 July to Dr Fitzgerald about the two Ad Hoc Committees, the Prime Minister wrote:

"You suggest that the chairman of the second Committee (on a "People's Europe") should be a person of European standing who could keep in direct contact with the Presidency in Office. Since you envisage that the Committee will report to the European Council in December, I think it would be very appropriate if your Government were to take on the chairmanship of this Committee, as well as that of the Committee on institutional affairs."

3. It is now clear that the Ad Hoc Committee on a People's Europe will not get down to work before November and that the bulk of the work will fall during the Italian Presidency next year.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
16 October 1984

THUYSBAERT, PROSPER (BELGIAN)

Diplomat.

Born Lokeren 1931.

BA in philosophy and a doctorate in law. Began his diplomatic career in 1958. He has served in Luxembourg, Paris and Tel Aviv. Assistant chef de Cabinet to Van Elslande in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1977. Then served as Foreign Affairs adviser in Mr Martens' Cabinet. Became Chef de Cabinet to Mr Tindemans when he was appointed Foreign Minister in December 1981, until 1983, since when he has been Political Director at the MFA, responsible for bilateral affairs.

One of the small group of Belgian officials who have played a consistently major role in determining European Community policy. He has not shown much sympathy for British interests. He has also written a number of articles on the EEC and linked subjects such as energy and economics.

Has a rather abrasive manner, but an elegant wife. Speaks good English.

ADONNINO, PIETRO (ITALIAN)

Christian Democrat MEP. Prominent Member of the Budget Committee and Budget Spokesman for the Christian Democrats. A lawyer and university lecturer in fiscal law and a Director of the Italian State Broadcasting Corporation.

Born 1929.

Budget expert. Flowery but rather obscure speaker and thinker. Moderately sympathetic to UK budget problem.

Speaks French and a little English.



file to

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

18 October 1984

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A
PEOPLE'S EUROPE

Thank you for your letter of 17 October on this subject. While the Prime Minister agrees that we should prefer Adonnino over Thuysbaert, she thinks that we should first discover whether Germany wants the Chair, given their disappointment over the failure to appoint Professor Carstens as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutions. Even if the answer is no, we might gain some credit from having gone through the motions of establishing that the Germans were not seeking the Chairmanship of this Committee.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Williamson in the Cabinet Office.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1984

Dear Charles,

*Yes not Prime Minister
Agree that we
may now go nap on
Signor Adonnino?*

European Community: Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee
on "A People's Europe"

*CDP
24/10*

In my letter of 17 October I reported that the Irish had proposed Prosper Thuysbaert (Belgium) for the chair of the "People's Europe" Committee. During the recent Anglo/Italian Summit Andreotti confirmed that the Italians would be putting forward Adonnino and asked for UK support (on which the Secretary of State was non-committal).

The Prime Minister agreed that we should support Adonnino provided that we ascertained beforehand that the Germans had no candidate to offer - your letter of 18 October. The Germans were grateful to be consulted, but have confirmed that they have no ambitions to secure the chair for Herr Neusel.

It does not appear that Thuysbaert commands general support; nor has he been particularly helpful to us. The Foreign Secretary proposes, therefore, that we should now tell the Irish and the Italians that we favour Adonnino.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Postamt und Fernsprechamt

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