



Prime Minister

Ref. AO2789

Agree para 3 below?

PRIME MINISTER

(The Chief Whip has not yet been able to speak to Mr. Barnett.)

Amnd - 1/8

THE NEW COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 1981

ACCOMMODATION FOR COMMISSIONERS-DESIGNATE

In 1972 and 1976 the Cabinet Office provided office accommodation for the United Kingdom's Commissioners-designate in the few months prior to their taking up office in Brussels. This proved to be of mutual advantage. Whitehall was able to provide briefing and access to confidential papers. The Commissioners-designate were able to meet representatives of a variety of British interests.

2. There was Ministerial correspondence in 1977 when Mr Arthur Lewis MP questioned why Mr Roy Jenkins as a back-bencher was being offered such accommodation in his capacity as Commissioner-designate, but I would not see any difficulty in dealing with further public questioning of what has become an established arrangement.

3. If you agree, therefore, I would propose to offer the same facilities here to our Commissioners-designate once they have been nominated, although if Mr Tugendhat is re-appointed there may not be the same need in his case.

What confidential papers?
mt.

RIA

(ROBERT ARMSTRONG)

31 July 1980

Eno Pd



Ref. A03269

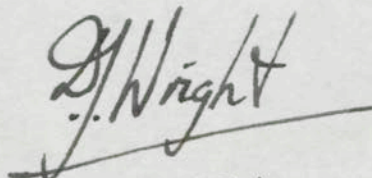
MR. LANKESTER ✓

MAJ

Accommodation for European Commissioners

In his minute of 4th August, Mr. Pattison said that the Prime Minister had agreed that the United Kingdom's two Commissioners-designate should be offered accommodation here in the Cabinet Office as was done in 1972 and 1976. I enclose copies of letters which Sir Robert Armstrong has addressed to Mr. Tugendhat and Mr. Richard making this offer.

2. I am sending copies of this minute and of the letters to Paul Lever (FCO).


(D.J. Wright)

17th October, 1980

Envo l d

CABINET OFFICE
Ref: A03257.
15 OCT 1980
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No. _____

15th October 1980

I was delighted to hear that you had been nominated for a further term as a Commissioner.

In 1972 and (as you will remember) in 1976, we provided accommodation here in the Cabinet Office for the British Commissioners designate during the weeks before they took up their appointment in Brussels. I have offered the same facilities this time to Ivor Richard. There may not be the same need for you to have a base in Whitehall this time round; but I wanted to let you know that, if you felt that it would be useful to have a room here between now and the end of the year we should be very happy to put one at your disposal. Perhaps your Office could let me or Michael Franklin know.

Christopher Tugendhat, Esq

Euro pd

CABINET OFFICE
Ref: A03256
270 0011000000
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE NO: _____

15th October 1980

I was delighted to know that you had been nominated as a member of the new European Commission. I am writing, with the Prime Minister's agreement, to say that we should be happy to put at your disposal a room here in the Cabinet Office, which you could use between now and the day when you take up your appointment. Similar arrangements were made for your predecessors in 1972 and 1976, and I believe that they found it useful to have a base in Whitehall where they could keep papers and meet those who are involved in EEC matters among the various Departments in Whitehall - including of course the European Secretariat which is part of the Cabinet Office.

I understand that Michael Franklin has already spoken to you, and if you would like to take up the offer of accommodation perhaps you would get in touch with him about the arrangements. He is, I know, looking forward to having a talk with you: we will give you all the help we can.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I.S. Richard, Esq., QC

MFJ

Euro Pot.

MR HILTON

In his minute of 12 August - reference AO2883 - Mr. Wright responded to my minute of 4 August about accommodation for Commissioners-Designate.

In the light of this explanation, the Prime Minister is content for Sir Robert Armstrong to offer the facilities proposed in his minute, reference AO2789, of 31 July.

MAP

26 August 1980

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BF 22/10/11 ~~MAP~~ 1.



Euro 98.

Prime Minister.

Ref. A02883
MR. SANDERS

Yes. not.

In the light of this explanation
content for Sir Robert Armstrong
to offer the facilities proposed

Accommodation for Commissioners-Designate below? MAP

In his minute of 4th August, Mr. Pattison says that the Prime Minister would like to know what type of confidential papers have been shown to Commissioners-Designate in the past and what access would be proposed in the future.

2. Commissioners-Designate have not been and would not be put on the circulation list of any Cabinet or Cabinet Committee papers, or given classified papers. What Sir Robert Armstrong had particularly in mind was informing our Commissioners-Designate about the functioning of the Commission and British officials working in the Commission. It could be helpful to let them read some of our background papers e.g. on the budget restructuring exercise and CAP reform, once Ministers have taken decisions; but that would be done only with Ministerial agreement.

D. J. WRIGHT

12th August, 1980

Note - We shall soon have
to make a positive proposal.
I don't think Mr. C's
first choice will tend favour with
us. Mr. Chief who has no doubts
Mr. Harrell but as we have had
no reply (and I am reluctant to
credit a bye-check in forward case)
perhaps we should consider something other than
Mr. C's list. not.

Gar

~~BF 18.8.80~~

Enro Pd

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute (Ref. A02789) about accommodation for Commissioners-designate.

The Prime Minister has asked for more information about the type of confidential papers to which access has been granted in the past, and to which Sir Robert would presumably propose to arrange access in the future.

M. A. PATTISON

4 August 1980

HL