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David Bell

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 October 1980

Dear Christopher

Thank you for your note of 20 October. I am delighted that you are looking forward so keenly to a second tour with the Commission.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with my Office whenever you think a meeting might be useful. As you imply in your letter, I am sure it would be better to think in terms of a meeting whenever there is something substantial to discuss rather than of meetings at regular intervals.

Yours ever

MT

Christopher Tugendhat, Esq.

jfh

October 20, 1960

My dear Prime Minister,

I want to thank you for nominating me to the new Commission.

I find this a fascinating and fulfilling job. There is also much still to be done to put Britain's membership of the Community on to a proper footing. As you know I have for long wanted to remain here for another term to play a part in that work before trying to return to

the House of Commons. I am grateful
to you for enabling me to do so.

I hope that as a Vice-President I
will be able to see you more often
than recently, as indeed I did when
you were Leader of the Opposition. I
will only ask to come when I think
it justifies the use of your time. But
there is no substitute for talking to
you if I am to know what is in
your mind and what you are trying
to achieve in the Community.

With best wishes

Yours ever
Christopher

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GR 300
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FM FCO 131856Z OCT 80
TO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG
TELEGRAM NUMBER 130 OF 13 OCTOBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE OTHER EC POSTS, ATHENS
INFO SAVING MADRID LISBON WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
U K COMMISSIONERS: 1981

MR IVOR RICHARD HAS ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO BE NOMINATED FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW COMMISSION AND MR CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT NOMINATION TO CONTINUE AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION. WE REGARD MR TUGENDHAT AS THE SENIOR BRITISH COMMISSIONER AND WILL PUT HIS NAME FORWARD FOR NOMINATION AS A VICE-PRESIDENT IN DUE COURSE.

2. (LUXEMBOURG) ON 7 OCTOBER I TOLD M. THORN OF OUR INTENTION TO NOMINATE MR RICHARD AND THE FORMER SAID HE WAS CONTENT. PLEASE NOW CONFIRM THAT MR RICHARD IS OUR CHOICE AND INFORM HIM OF MR RICHARD'S ACCEPTANCE. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONFIRM OUR INTENTION TO NOMINATE MR TUGENDHAT AGAIN.

3. UKREP BRUSSELS PLEASE INFORM TUGENDHAT THAT WE PROPOSE TO ANNOUNCE HIS RENOMINATION AND MR RICHARD'S ON THE AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER. YOU SHOULD ALSO, ON 15 OCTOBER INFORM YOUR COLLEAGUES. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO TELL THE JENKINS AND CABINET AND M. NOEL. PLEASE STRESS THAT WE DO NOT WISH THE NEWS TO LEAK BEFORE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

4. OTHER EC POSTS AND ATHENS PLEASE TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON 15 OCTOBER.

BACKGROUND

5. MR RICHARD'S APPOINTMENT IS LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED BY NO 10 ON THE AFTERNOON OF 15 OCTOBER. CURRICULA VITAE FOLLOW.

6. THE NEW COMMISSION WILL BE AGREED BY COMMON ACCORD OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES AT OR SHORTLY AFTER THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 1/2 DECEMBER. THE MEMBERS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE FORMALLY APPOINTED UNTIL 1 JANUARY (BY THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE) WHEN THE GREEKS MAY LEGALLY PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS. THE SAME PROCEDURE WAS FOLLOWED WHEN WE JOINED. THE COMMISSION WILL FORMALLY TAKE OFFICE FIVE DAYS AFTER THAT.

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/7. WE EXPECT

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7. WE EXPECT MR TUGENDHAT, AS SENIOR BRITISH COMMISSIONER, TO HOLD A VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION. IT IS STANDARD PRACTICE FOR THOSE LARGE MEMBER STATES NOT HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION TO HAVE A VICE-PRESIDENT EACH. WITH THORN PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE THIS MEANS THAT EACH OF FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AND THE U K WILL EXPECT A VICE-PRESIDENCY, LEAVING ONLY ONE MORE TO BE FILLED. AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 21 DECEMBER 1976 THAT ONE VICE-PRESIDENCY WOULD BE SHARED BY DENMARK, IRELAND AND LUXEMBOURG, AND ANOTHER BY BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS. THERE IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE SOME ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE SMALL MEMBER STATES AS TO WHO SHOULD SUPPLY THE FIFTH VICE-PRESIDENCY.

8. YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS QUESTION AND SHOULD TRY TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO DISCUSSION OF IT. IF IT IS RAISED YOU SHOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT IT IS FOR THE SMALL MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES TO SORT OUT. PARIS, BONN AND ROME SHOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY THE POINT WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES. WE ASSUME THAT THEY TOO ARE EXPECTING TO SUPPLY A VICE-PRESIDENT.

9. IF ASKED WHICH PORTFOLIOS WE ARE INTERESTED IN, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE EXPECT THERE TO BE INFORMAL CONTACT ABOUT THIS. FINAL AGREEMENT ON THEIR DISTRIBUTION IS, OF COURSE, A MATTER FOR THE NEW COMMISSION ITSELF.

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OID
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
LORD BRIDGES
MR BULLARD
MR HANNAY
LORD N G LENNOX
MR FERGUSSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10
DOWNING ST]

COPIES TO:
MR WRIGHT }
MR ELLIOTT } CABINET OFFICE
MR FRANKLIN }

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Euro. Pol.h.c.c. Sir R. Armstrong
O/R. Mr Whitmore
Mr Elliot M.S.

MR LEVER

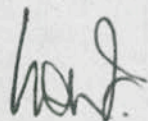
cc Mr Gomersall
Lord Bridges

COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

1. You kindly sent me a copy of Mr Tugendhat's letter to the Secretary of State. I shall shortly be having a meeting with other Departments to get their latest thinking on Commission portfolios and will report further to you. Personally I would agree with much of Mr Tugendhat's assessment although we may have one or two comments which we will give to the FCO.
2. There is however one aspect on which I should like to comment. We are all agreed that the Budget portfolio has become more important (due in no small measure to Mr Tugendhat's own efforts) and is likely to become even more important during the next two or three years. We should therefore retain it for the UK. Would it however be in our best interests to leave it with Mr Tugendhat if, in the event, the second British Commissioner proves to be Mr Joel Barnett? His qualifications for the Budget job are self-evident and it is less clear that he would be equally successful in another post where he was less familiar with the subject matter as well as having to learn the Commission ropes. Mr Tugendhat on the other hand has, during his time with the Commission, been involved in several issues of industrial and competition policy - both portfolios in which we could have an interest. It is true that the chances of another nationality wresting the Budget portfolio from us would be less with Mr Tugendhat as the sitting tenant, but I do not believe the danger would be too great given Mr Barnett's qualifications. It could be argued that we want the Budget portfolio to be held by our senior Commissioner and by one of the Vice Presidents. But I believe our overall influence might be greater if the Vice President held another portfolio of interest to us since - provided he is active - the Commissioner dealing with the Budget is likely to be in the centre of things anyway.
3. This is a personal view and I do not know whether the Prime Minister had the same point in mind in concluding that Mr Barnett would do the

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Commission job well. No doubt the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be consulting her in due course.



M D M FRANKLIN
CABINET OFFICE SW1

18 September 1980

19 SEP 1980



Extract from Meeting Record - PM and
Chief Whip on 3 June 1980

Original filed
Parliamentary
TSRB, Pt 2

3. European Commissioners

As you may know, the Chief Whip had a word some days ago with the Foreign Secretary about these appointments when it was agreed that he would discuss the matter further with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister agrees that Christopher Tugendhat should be invited to stay on and she would see merit in making such an announcement at an early opportunity.

With regard to the Labour side, the Prime Minister feels that she ought, as a courtesy, to ask the Leader of the Opposition to suggest some names, but making it quite clear that at the end of the day the Government has the discretion over the appointments. She has very serious reservations about two of the names

already canvassed, Dickson Mabon and Joel Barnett. Two possibilities would be David Owen and Eric Varley. The Prime Minister, however, is more attracted to the idea of asking Roy Jenkins if he would like to stay on and she would not be averse to offering him a (hereditary) peerage as a consequence. I understand that there is a precedent for a former President continuing as a Commissioner. Perhaps we could have a word about how this should be further pursued.