

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 16.
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PRIME MINISTER

European Institute of Public Administration,
Maastricht (EIPA)

Mr Lubbers may raise with you the possible secondment of a British official to the EIPA.

2. The EIPA was set up in March 1981 on the initiative of the Dutch Government who have put considerable resources into it. Its primary aim is to provide training and seminars for national and Community officials to enable member countries to function more efficiently within the Community. The Principal of the Civil Service College and the Director General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration sit on the EIPA's Scientific (ie Advisory) Council.

3. The Dutch are seeking evidence to commitment from other community countries to the EIPA, either by finance for staff or the secondment of staff to it. Most of the smaller countries have done this but the United Kingdom, France and Germany have not yet done so.

4. The Cabinet Office (MPO) view is that our own training programme on European matters is effective and that the EIPA can offer only a limited additional dimension. The "added value" is not sufficient to divert scarce money or staff resources from our existing training effort. On a wider political front, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office see some small but real practical benefits from British involvement in EIPA, but similarly cannot find the money to second an official.

5. To overcome this difficulty, we are setting in motion a trawl to see if we can identify an official who would be suitable for secondment and make the right British impression in EIPA, and whom his department would be prepared to continue to carry on its books. It will not be easy to find a suitable and available person.



6. If Mr Lubbers raises the issue, I recommend that you say that you would like to be able to help and that you have put in hand an investigation into the possibility of making a suitable person available, but that there are difficulties in finding such a person and in finance. Dr Schepers (Director General of EIPA) will be in London shortly and officials can discuss the matter further with him.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

16 September 1983



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From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MAASTRICHT (EIPA)

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 16 September.

The possible secondment of a British official to the EIPA was raised both during the private lunch which Mr. Lubbers gave for Mrs. Thatcher and also during the formal talks. A record of the latter will reach you separately.

B/E 1
The clear sense of the Prime Minister's various remarks to Mr. Lubbers was that we would now make a positive effort to supply a suitable official. The Dutch side welcomed our intention. As this matter may come up again when the Prime Minister sees Mr. Lubbers, for example at the European Council in Athens, it would be helpful if you could keep the Prime Minister informed of progress.

A. J. COLES

22 September 1983

SJ