



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Content with this
line?

Yes mb

A.S.C. $\frac{2}{2}$.

2 February 1984

John Taha,

Appointments to the EC Commission

You may have seen the article in yesterday's Guardian reporting Mr Robin Cook MP as saying that the Labour Party would be seeking to replace Mr Ivor Richard as a Member of the Commission when his present term of office expires at the end of this year and speculating that the Government will nominate Lord Rayner to replace Mr Tugendhat. We can expect increasing public and press interest in the subject. We need a press line which will take us through until the summer, when the President of the next Commission is appointed (probably at the June European Council).

We propose as necessary to take the following line:

'The present Commission's term of office expires at the beginning of 1985. Member Governments will have to decide before then whom to appoint to the new Commission which will take office in January 1985. If past practice is followed, the next President will be chosen at the June meeting of the European Council. Thereafter the members of the Commission will be 'appointed by common accord of the Governments of the Member States' (Article 158 EEC). Member States normally discuss their nominations with the President-elect.

It is for the Government to decide whom to nominate as UK Members of the Commission.

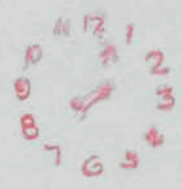
No decisions have yet been taken either on the size or membership of future Commissions.'

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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cc: B. Ingham
T. Fletcher

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 February 1984

Appointments to the EC Commission

Thank you for your letter of 2 February.

The Prime Minister is content with the line which you propose to take in public about British candidates for appointment to the European Commission.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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