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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April, 1984

NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Prime Minister has seen the Minute of 9 April by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on this subject. She discussed it with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary today. The conclusion was reached that it would be premature for us to decide to support the candidature of M. Davignon and to make this known. One factor which weighed with the Prime Minister was Chancellor's Kohl's earlier statement to her that he intends to put forward a German candidate. Although there is no such candidate in sight, the Prime Minister feels that we should wait a little longer in case one does emerge.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry) and to Michael Reidy (Department of Energy).

A. J. COLES

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HM Treasury