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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 July 1984

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister  
Dr. Kohl's private secretary  
finally telephoned this  
afternoon to confirm  
that there would be no  
German candidate,

Next President of the EC Commission

Sustained efforts by the Embassy in Bonn having borne no fruit by mid-afternoon, Sir Geoffrey Howe decided to wait no longer for final confirmation that the Germans will not be putting forward a candidate. He therefore telephoned Dr Fitzgerald at 3.40 pm to confirm that the UK could accept Mr Delors as the next President of the Commission. The Taoiseach was most grateful for this news. He went on to say how surprised he had been by the general willingness to fall in with the French proposal of Delors. Even Martens had shown no inclination to press the candidacy of Davignon, support for whom had in general been noticeable by its absence.

they supported  
~~had~~  
Delors  
CDP  
15/7

The Taoiseach went on to say that an announcement would be made tomorrow morning at around 9 am. He was also in touch with Dankert, who had indicated his provisional assent but had said he would like to see a telex communicating the news formally. This was in hand, and Dr Fitzgerald would also be addressing the Parliament next Wednesday.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

PS Shortly after making the above call Sir Geoffrey telephoned M. Dumas to pass on our decision. Monsieur D. was most grateful.

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