



PM/84/127

PRIME MINISTER

1. As you know, the European Parliament will be electing its new President next week. It is important that our MEPs play their part in this election in a way which reinforces the centre-right alliance we have been advocating and gives no comfort to the Socialists. They have a choice between three candidates. The Socialists have united in support of Mr Dankert, whom we would not wish to see elected. At this stage there are two candidates on the centre-right; Diana Elles as the EDG candidate, and M. Pflimlin, a Christian Democrat and former Prime Minister of France and Mayor of Strasbourg. M. Pflimlin has some deficiencies as a candidate - his election would mean French Presidents of both Parliament and Commission, he is reaching the end of his political career, and he is anxious to keep the Parliament in Strasbourg. Between these two, the choice for us is clear. But if, as seems possible, Diana Elles is eliminated and there is a final run off between M. Pflimlin and Mr Dankert, it appears possible that some of our MEPs might support Mr Dankert. In my view (and I understand also Henry Plumb's view) it would be very damaging to the prospects of long-term cooperation among centre-right Parties for the British Conservatives to be seen to split between a Socialist and a Christian Democrat, especially if this resulted in the election of the Socialist.

2. I therefore suggest that you consider sending a telex along the lines of the attached draft to Henry Plumb in order to strengthen his hand at the crucial stages of discussion within his Group. I know Henry would welcome this. The draft may strike you - as it did me - as somewhat delphic. But I am advised that it strikes the right note, without opening up the possibility of claims

/that

Prime Minister
 Agree proposed
 message to Sir
 H Plumb?
 CDP
 20/7

Yes no

①

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that we are interfering. It would be most useful if it were to arrive during the course of Monday, 23 July.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

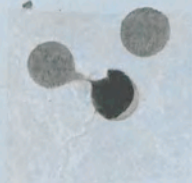
GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

20 July 1984

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DSR 11 (Revised)



TELEX

DRAFT: minute/letter/teletype/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Sir Henry Plumb

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

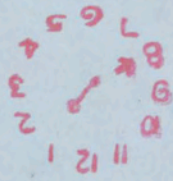
.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Best wishes to you and our Conservative colleagues at the constituent session of the European Parliament! The voters have given a majority in the new Parliament to Parties which work for personal freedom and economic freedom. I know that the EDG will play its full part in this majority and against a socialist Europe. Five years of hard work await you - *make sure you get off to a good start.*
~~good luck with the beginning.~~

Ends

Enclosures—flag(s).....



20 JUL 1984

