

bcc: Charles Powell
10 Downing Street

FROM: Sir Crispin Tickell
DATE: 12 October 1984

cc PS/Secretary of State
PS/Mr Rifkind
PS/PUS
Mr Crowe

Mr Renwick

EDD
- 15/k.

ITALIAN COMMISSIONERS

When I was in Rome on 10 October, Signor Ruggiero (Director General of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) spoke to me about the nomination of the Italian Commissioners. He said there was now no doubt that Signor Natali would be re-appointed. The problem was over the Second Commissioner.

2. Signor Ruggiero said that the new leader of the Italian Communist Party had already told the Prime Minister that as the Communist Party was now the largest opposition party it should have the opportunity to put forward a candidate for the Second Commissionership. Signor Craxi had not yet given any answer. He had mentioned it to Monsieur Delors when the latter had visited Rome, and to Signor Ruggiero's surprise Monsieur Delors had made no comment. Obviously much would depend on the qualities of the candidate suggested by the Italian Communist Party and in any case Signor Craxi would have the last word. Nonetheless, Signor Craxi was somewhat embarrassed. For that reason Signor Ruggiero thought that his government would be much more disposed than in the past to accept the British thesis that on enlargement of the Community, each country should have only one Commissioner.

3. I thanked Signor Ruggiero for this information. It would be useful to have it in the back of our minds when Monsieur Delors visits London next week.

12 October 1984



Crispin Tickell

CONFIDENTIAL