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THE PRIME MINISTER

21 July 1988

Dear Mr. Kinnock,

The moment is approaching for the Government to appoint the two British members of the Commission of the European Communities for the period 1989-92. You will recall that I consulted you before the nominations were made for the present Commission in 1984. I said to you then that I thought as a general rule that people should not serve as Commissioners for too long. That remains my view, and I should let you know in confidence that I do not intend to nominate either of the present British Commissioners for a second term.

I hope to announce the name of a successor to Lord Cockfield as the Senior British Commissioner shortly. I should be grateful if you could let me have fairly soon some suggested candidates for the second post. Alternatively if you would prefer to discuss this, we might have a word before the House rises. Perhaps your office could let Charles Powell know which course you prefer.

May I ask you to treat the information in this letter as personal and confidential until Lord Cockfield and Mr. Clinton Davis have been informed, which is likely to be at the end of the week.

Yours sincerely

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P.