

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

EUROPE

1. I have reported to you on the Meeting with Peter Thorneycroft and Willie Whitelaw, on Tuesday.
2. In addition to an exchange of view about the leadership of Conservatives in the European Parliament, we also discussed the Roy Jenkins situation.
3. As you know, his four-year term expires on 31st December 1980 at the same time as that of Christopher Tugendhat.
4. Willie had heard, through a top Home Office Civil Servant that Roy Jenkins would seek to return to the House of Commons as a Liberal. Alistair McAlpine suggested the name of John Harris as a possible replacement for Jenkins, not least because he saw a danger in a Jenkins/Harris access at home. Both Alistair and Willie have a high regard for Harris. Alistair is fearful of Harris's ability as a fund-raiser for a Jenkins' led Liberal Party.
4. The general view was that Christopher Tugendhat was doing a good job in Brussels although none of those present knew whether he would like to be reappointed at the expiration of his term of Office. It was felt that it would be difficult for Christopher to get adopted for a Conservative constituency, although from a conversation I had with him sometime ago it is his ambition to return to the House. Tugendhat will be 43 next month. You may be interested to know that Willie, whose PPS Tugendhat was, advised Tugendhat very strongly against accepting the appointment as Commissioner, on the grounds that it would damage his prospects in the House. Tugendhat is certainly very ambitious.

17 January 1980

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