

Conservative Party International Office

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NOTE ON THE ELECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, TUESDAY

19TH JANUARY 1982

1. The results of the election to the Presidency in each of the 4 ballots were as follows:

	<u>1ST BALLOT</u>	<u>2ND BALLOT</u>	<u>3RD BALLOT</u>	<u>4TH BALLOT</u>
Pieter Dankert (Socialist)	106	114	162	191
Egon Klepsch (Christian Democrat)	140	130	157	175
Jim Scott-Hopkins (Conservative)	63	67	67	-
Communist & Radical	59	61	-	-

2. In the period before the election of Madame Simone Veil as the first President of the directly elected Parliament, in the summer of 1979, Conservative MEPs believed that there had been a personal undertaking by Herr Klepsch, the leader of the Christian Democrat group, to support a Conservative candidate in 1982, in return for Conservative support for Madame Veil in 1979. Following rumours last July that Herr Klepsch was about to announce his own candidacy for the Presidency, Sir James Scott-Hopkins sought to pre-empt this by announcing his candidacy, with the backing of the Conservative Group. Despite a number of attempts to enter into negotiations with the Christian Democrats, the Conservatives met with no response. The International Office also attempted to raise the matter within the European Democrat Union (EDU), but representatives of the CDU felt that this was a matter best left to members of the European Parliament themselves.

3. In the meantime, Herr Klepsch was narrowly nominated by his own Christian Democrat Group for the Presidency of the Parliament, over Mr. Leo Tindemans. Apart from the fact that he did not have unified support from his own group, Herr Klepsch did not impress Conservatives with what seemed a total lack of integrity in his dealings with both the Parliament as a whole, and the Conservatives

in particular. As a result of the breakdown in communications, the elections for the Presidency opened without any agreement on a single non-socialist candidate. The Christian Democrats had secured the support of the Liberals, because the leader of the Liberal Group (a German) had given an earlier undertaking to the Christian Democrats to support their nominee.

4. During the course of the balloting last Tuesday, it became clear that unless there was some agreement between the non-socialists, neither Herr Klepsch nor Sir James would be elected. It was consistently made clear by Conservative Members to Christian Democrats that Herr Klepsch was the least acceptable candidate of their group. In addition, the International Office maintained close contact with the CDU International Office throughout the day informing them of the position, (as it had consistently done in the period before the elections). Following the second ballot, the Conservatives in the European Parliament (with the support of the Liberals) sought discussions with the Christian Democrats with a view to resolving the problem. The Conservatives were, at this stage, prepared to accept whichever candidate emerged from a consensus of the non-socialist groups - apart from Herr Klepsch; and Jim Scott-Hopkins himself was prepared to withdraw from the elections if such a joint candidate could be agreed. No satisfactory compromise was reached, and in an atmosphere of some confusion, the third ballot took place. It would seem that this was entirely the responsibility of Herr Klepsch's campaign managers.

5. At the end of the third ballot, representatives of the Christian Democrat group began to suggest a Conservative Presidency in 1984, and made some promises concerning committee chairmanships. By this late stage in the proceedings, however, most Conservatives were not prepared to consider what they regarded as highly unreliable inducements for their support. The fourth ballot thus took place between the two leading candidates. Since the ballot is secret it is impossible to determine exactly how many Conservatives actually voted for Pieter Dankert, or how many abstained. But in our view, the likely breakdown was as follows:

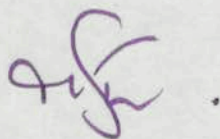
Pieter Dankert	25
Herr Klepsch	13
Abstentions	24

(this includes the 2 Danish Conservatives)

This is not absolutely clear from the switch between the 3rd and 4th Ballots, since between 5-10 Conservatives had failed to support Sir James in earlier ballots.

6. In this situation, the abstentions are probably the most easy to explain. It is likely however, that a number of Conservatives voted for Pieter Dankert on the grounds that like the Speaker of the House of Commons, it was important to elect a man of integrity and proven ability, and this had been demonstrated to many of them while he was Rapporteur for the 1980 Budget and a Vice-President of the Parliament. Herr Klepsch, on the other hand, had clearly failed to impress most Conservative MEPs.

7. The lesson which must be drawn from this sorry state of affairs is the need to have more effective consultations on such matters within the EDU, since it is imperative that we avoid such a break in the non-socialist ranks recurring in the future.



CONSERVATIVE PARTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
22ND JANUARY 1982

Note on the European Parliament and the European Democrat Union

European Parliament

Dr. Kohl may raise the matter of last week's election for the Presidency of the European Parliament, and the failure of the non-socialist groups to rally round a joint candidate. It is the view of Members of the European Democratic Group that this was entirely due to the Christian Democrats' unwillingness (particularly on the part of their candidate, Mr. Egon Klepsch) to fully consult the Conservatives. It may be appropriate to suggest to Dr. Kohl that this is an area where the EDU should play a stronger role, and that the lesson to be drawn from this unhappy turn of events is that we need to develop our already close inter-party co-operation further still.

European Democrat Union and its international links

The subject of the EDU's links with the two American parties might come up. Sir Anthony Royle will be holding separate talks on this and other EDU matters during the course of Dr. Kohl's visit. Dr. Kohl is rather sceptical about direct relations with the American parties and might seek confirmation directly that the Conservative Party favours these new international links; and it would be valuable to emphasise that these new links would, in our view, strengthen the present forms of inter-party co-operation. Dr. Alois Mock, Chairman of the EDU, has written to Dr. Kohl urging him to take a more positive approach to international co-operation, and would greatly appreciate the Conservative Party giving him full support on this. A preliminary and informal meeting will take place in Munich next month between representatives of the EDU, the American parties and associated parties in the Far East to consider ways of developing inter-party co-operation at an international level, to counter the growing influence of the Socialist International.

Conservative Party International Office

RS/JM

22nd January 1982