

PRIME MINISTER

Madame Simone Veil

I spoke earlier today to M. Wahl in President Giscard's office to convey to him your response to the President's approach seeking your support for the election of Madame Veil to the Presidency of the European Assembly. I told him that you had already met Madame Veil, that you were well aware of her qualities and that there was no need for her to come over to see you again. You were very ready <sup>in principle</sup> to support her candidacy for the Presidency but publicly the decision whether to support Madame Veil was for the Conservative Members of the Assembly and not for you. If you appeared to be trying to impose your own view, this might possibly be counter-productive. Nonetheless, you would make known your support for her privately to the Conservative Members.

M. Wahl said that this was very good news. He would tell the President of your response and he was sure that he would appreciate it. M. Wahl said that he was well aware that this was a matter for the group of Conservative European Members to decide, and he was encouraged by the fact that Mr. Scott-Hopkins was shortly to see one of Madame Veil's leading colleagues in her group of French European Members.

Your response will clearly put some credit in the bank with President Giscard which you may be able to draw upon at the European Council.

Ans.

JMS.

19 June 1979