

No. 1/91 January 8, 1991

VICE PRESIDENT BRITTAN OF E.C. COMMISSION TO MEET WITH TOP LEVEL U.S. OFFICIALS

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President of the E.C. Commission with special responsibility for Competition (Antitrust) and Financial Institutions, will visit the United States from January 13-18, starting in New York and ending in Los Angeles.

In Washington from January 15-17, Vice President Brittan's present schedule includes meetings with Richard Thornburgh, U.S. Attorney General; Ambassador Carla Hills, U.S. Trade Representative; Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Robert Clarke, Comptroller of the Currency; Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State; and David Mulford, Undersecretary of the Treasury. Brittan will also meet with certain members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Wednesday, January 16

At 9.00 a.m. there will be a Morning Newsmaker/breakfast briefing with Vice President Brittan, hosted by the National Press Club (14th and F Streets, N.W.). Members of the Press are invited to attend.

<u>At a 12.00 noon luncheon</u> at the Willard Inter Continental Hotel Ballroom (1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.) Sir Leon will speak to the British-American Business Association, the French-American Chamber of Commerce and the Representative for German Industry and Trade. Persons interested in attending should contact: Alice Kriz at (202) 775-0256.

In New York and Los Angeles Vice President Brittan will meet with executives in financial and business circles.

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Sir Leon Brittan was appointed to the E.C. Commission in January 1989 for a four-year term as Vice President responsible for Competition and Financial Institutions.

Born in London on September 25, 1939, Sir Leon was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and was a Henry Fellow at Yale University. In 1962 he was called to the Bar and in 1978 received the prestigious appointment as Queen's Counsel. In 1983 he became a member of the governing board of the Inner Temple, one of London's four unincorporated legal societies.

Brittan was a Conservative Member of the British Parliament from 1974 to 1988. As a member of the Opposition (until 1979) he was front bench spokesman on devolution and employment. Since the Conservative victory in the 1979 General Election, he has held several Cabinet posts, including Minister of State at the Home Office (1979-1981), Chief Secretary to the Treasury (1981-1983), Home Secretary (1983-1985) and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1985-1986).

Sir Leon is author of numerous publications, including "A New Deal for Health Care" and "Defense and Arms Control in a Changing Era" (both 1988).

The U.S. has always interested Vice President Brittan. From 1970 to 1978 he was a member of the European North American Committee. He studied at Yale and represented his home university, Cambridge, in a debating tour of the U.S. in 1960.

He was knighted in January 1989.