

Peer calls on Government to honour commitment to keep President Obama out of EU debate

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The Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Independent Labour)

News Release

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Peer calls on Government to honour its commitment to keep President Obama and other foreign leaders out of EU debate

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, the independent Labour Peer, has called on the Government to honour a commitment made by Baroness Anelay of St Johns, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in a reply (17th June) to a written question from him, in which he was promised that efforts would be made to keep foreign leaders out of the debate about Britain's future in the EU, ahead of the referendum.

The Baroness said that *'the decision in the referendum will be one for British voters to make' and that 'The Government will make this clear as necessary in its discussions with foreign leaders and EU officials.'*

Lord Stoddart has written to Baroness Anelay to remind her of the commitment she made, in light of the latest statement from President Obama in which he has blatantly involved himself in the debate about the EU, ahead of the referendum. He has

urged her to ensure that the Government makes representations to the President on the matter.

The full text of Lord Stoddart's message of 24th July, to the Baroness is as follows:

FA0: The Rt Hon. the Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE

Dear Joyce

Further to your written reply of 17th June 2015 (see web link below) and the Prime Minister's article in the Daily Mail of today's date, may I assume that the Government will be making representations to President Obama in relation to yet another statement from him, reported this morning, urging the UK to stay in the European Union. His interventions are improper and are a gross interference in British politics that is widely resented. They also do nothing to dispel the impression that the UK is the USA's poodle in the EU.