



## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CABINET COMMITTEES: EFFECT OF MINISTERIAL CHANGES

The Prime Minister has considered your minute of 12 September (A084/2459). She is content with the proposals in it, subject to the following points:-

Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs {E(A)}

The Prime Minister thinks that the Paymaster General should receive papers and attend when requested or when he wishes to do so, as for 'H' Committee.

Defence and Overseas Policy Committee {OD}

The Prime Minister has concluded that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland should not be a member, not least since there will be so many dates when it will not be convenient for him to attend because of absences in Northern Ireland. She has therefore concluded that, like Mr. Prior, he should attend on invitation only.

MISC 66

The Prime Minister is content that the Ministerial and official machinery should be the same as that used for the 1984 round, but would like the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to be added to the Ministerial group.

F. E. BUTLER

13 September 1984



Prime Minister  
Could you please indicate  
whether you agree each of  
these proposals?

FEES  
12.9.

Ref. A084/2459

MR BUTLER

Cabinet Committees: Effect of Ministerial Changes

I recommend the following changes in membership of Cabinet Committees, following the recent Ministerial changes:

Steering Committee on Economic Strategy (ES)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to continue ✓  
(Lord Gowrie replaces Lord Cockfield)  
Minister without Portfolio to be added ✓

Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (E(A))

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to continue ✓  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to continue ✓  
(Mr Hurd replaces Mr Prior: the other regional Ministers are members) ✓  
Minister without Portfolio to be added ✓

Add Paymaster General on same basis as for H (below)?  
Yes

Sub-Committees on Competition Policy (E(CP))

Disposal of Public Sector Assets (E(DL))  
Nationalised Industries (E(NI))

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be deleted ✓  
(I understand that Lord Gowrie does not feel any need to be on these Sub-Committees)  
Minister without Portfolio to be added ✓

Sub-Committee on Public Sector Pay (E(PSP))

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to continue ✓  
(Lord Gowrie is already a member of this Sub-Committee)

Home and Social Affairs Committee (H)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be deleted ✓  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to continue ✓  
Minister without Portfolio and Paymaster General: not to be formal members but to receive papers and attend when requested (or when they wish to do so) ✓



Legislation Committee (L)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be deleted ✓  
 (Lord Gowrie sees no need to be on this Committee,  
 and the Lords are already well represented on it)  
 Minister of State, Home Office, to continue  
 (Mr Shaw replaces Mr Hurd) ✓

Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OD)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be deleted ✓  
 Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to be added  
 (Mr Prior was not a member of the Committee, but came  
 when Irish business was affected; Mr Hurd could be a  
 useful member) ~~same~~ *On invitation only*

*This seems  
questionable to me.  
It will be difficult for  
him to attend often.  
Exclude?*

Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL)

This is essentially a Committee of business managers.  
 I recommend not adding the Chancellor of the Duchy of  
 Lancaster, the Minister without Portfolio or the  
 Paymaster General: so no change. ✓

*Add Paymaster  
General?*

*No.*

Urban Policy (MISC 104)

Minister without Portfolio to be added ✓

2. There will be consequential changes in Orders of Composition to reflect the new precedence, and in the title attached to Lord Gowrie in the composition of those Committees of which he continues to be a member.

3. I understand that the Treasury think that questions relating to the handling of the 1985 round of Civil Service pay negotiations could well arise hard on the heels of the conclusion of the 1984 negotiations, now expected shortly. I should therefore be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content that the Ministerial and official machinery for handling the 1985 Civil Service pay negotiations should be the same as that used for the 1984 round, allowing for changes in Ministerial responsibilities, ie:



i. A Ministerial Group (MISC 66) composed as follows:

Chairman: Chancellor of the Exchequer (with an understanding that the Prime Minister may wish to take the chair herself on occasions)

Members: Secretary of State for Defence ✓  
Secretary of State for Social Services ✓  
Secretary of State for Employment  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Minister of State, Treasury (Mr Hayhoe)

*A pretty 'Soft' Committee?  
Too soft.*

ii. An Official Group (MISC 67) under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Kemp, the Treasury Deputy Secretary in charge of the negotiations, who would also be available to attend the Ministerial Group as requested.

*Agree?  
Yes*

*RA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

12 September 1984