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APPS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

10 May 1985

PEACOCK COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 9 May and is content that the Home Secretary should approach Sir Peter Reynolds to be a member in place of Dr Peter Main.

The Prime Minister agrees that Mr Hardie's Chairmanship of Broadlands Radio should not be an obstacle to his serving as a member of the Committee.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Hugh Taylor Esq
Home Office

sew



Prime Minister

PEACOCK COMMITTEE

You will wish to know the latest position following our recent discussion of the membership of the Peacock Committee.

Mr Samuel Brittan, Miss Judith Chalmers, Mr Jeremy Hardie, Professor Alastair Hetherington and Lord Quinton have each indicated that they would be pleased to serve on the Committee.

Dr Peter Main has declined to serve because his son is an employee of the BBC. At our discussion we envisaged that Mrs Patricia Mann should be the first reserve if any of our preferred list proved to be unavailable. But as it is the industrialist candidate who is unable to serve, I think we should reconsider this as I do feel that the Committee should have on it one member with a weighty and distinguished industrial background. Accordingly, I would now like to approach Sir Peter Reynolds, Chairman of Ranks Hovis McDougall, who was recommended to me by John Wakeham. Are you content with that?

I should also mention a point which has emerged in connection with Jeremy Hardie. It appears that he has been the Chairman of Broadlands Radio, the independent local radio station which operates in Norfolk. He is now only an unpaid Director of the Company with a small shareholding

/in it.

Prime Minister

Yes no Agree Sir Peter Reynolds?

I will make sure that Sir Robert Armstrong sees no difficulty about Mr. Hardie's connection with Broadlands Radio.

FERB

9.5.

in it. In the context of his extremely extensive commercial and other interests I do not think this presents any problem, either of substance or presentation and all who have been examining these matters in the Home Office share that view.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

L. B.

9 May 1985

REYNOLDS, Peter William John, CBE 1975; Chairman, Ranks Hovis McDougall plc, since 1981; b 10 Sept. 1929; s of Harry and Gladys Victoria Reynolds; m 1955, Barbara Anne (née Johnson); two s. Educ: Haileybury Coll., Herts. National Service, 2nd Lieut. R.A. 1948-50. Unilever Ltd. 1950-70: Trainee; Managing Dir, then Chm., Walls (Meat & Handy Foods) Ltd. Asst Gp Managing Dir, Ranks Hovis McDougall Ltd, 1971, Gp Man. Dir, 1972-81. Recreations: gardening, beagling. Address: The White House, Beamond End, Amersham, Bucks. T: High Wycombe 713248. Clubs: Naval and Military, Farmers'.

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MEMO

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