



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. HATFIELD
CABINET OFFICE

MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 10 September and has endorsed his proposals for the membership of certain Cabinet committees following the recent Ministerial changes.

In particular the Prime Minister has decided that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should be a full member of E(LA), E(NI), MISC 111, OD and OD(T). The Prime Minister also endorses Sir Robert's suggestion that the Chancellor of the Duchy should receive papers for OD(HD) and be invited to attend for items of particular interest.

Mark Addison

MARK ADDISON

16 September 1985

SM

PRIME MINISTER

MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES

The attached note from Sir Robert Armstrong sets out his proposals for Cabinet Committee membership, following the reshuffle. Most of the proposed changes are consequential upon the fact that the Paymaster General is now a Minister of Cabinet rank at the Department of Employment, and that Mr. Tebbit is now Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

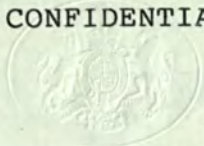
You will need to go through the minute committee by committee, indicating if you are content with Sir Robert's proposals. I have highlighted the points for decision where Sir Robert flags up more than one option.

On OD and related committees, Mr. Powell thinks Mr. Tebbit should be a full member of OD itself, and receive papers for OD (HD) and OD(T).

Yes
me

Mark Addeh

11 September, 1985



A085/2304

PRIME MINISTER

The purpose of this minute is to make proposals for changes to the membership of certain Cabinet Committees following the recent Ministerial changes. My minute to you of 6 September covers the membership of H and QL and a further minor change to the membership of H is suggested below.

2. On the economic side generally, the Secretary of State for Employment has suggested that the Paymaster General rather than himself should sit on a number of Committees, the details of which are given below. The Minister without Portfolio will of course disappear from the membership of Committees to which he belonged.

Ministerial Steering Committee on Economic Strategy (ES)

3. No change

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

4. The Paymaster General should become a full member, in addition to the Secretary of State for Employment. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is already a member.

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

5. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should become a member and the junior Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry given responsibility for competition policy (Mr Michael Howard) should be substituted for Mr Alex Fletcher.

Sub-Committee on Disposal of Public Sector Assets (E(DL))

6. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretary of State for Employment should become members: it would make sense for Lord Young to be directly involved in this Committee which could become more active as the next election approaches.

Sub-Committee on Local Authority Expenditure (E(LA))

7. The Minister of State, Privy Council Office should be added in view of the implications of local authority reorganisation for the Arts. You may wish the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be a member for broader political reasons. The Paymaster General should be substituted for the Secretary of State for Employment.

Sub-Committee on Local Government Finance (E(LF))

8. I propose that both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Employment should become members. The Chancellor attended the last meeting of E(LF) and it would be sensible to include him given the wide-ranging fiscal issues involved. I suggest that the Minister of State, Privy Council Office, need not be a member of this Sub-Committee.

Sub-Committee on Nationalised Industries (E(NI))

9. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has expressed a strong personal interest in this Committee. If you did not wish him to become a full member, it could easily be arranged that he received copies of all papers and attended meetings of particular interest as an invitee. The Paymaster General should be substituted for the Secretary of State for Employment.

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

10. The Minister of State, Privy Council Office should be made a member in view of his Civil Service responsibilities. The Paymaster General should be substituted for the Secretary of State for Employment.

Ministerial Committee on Exports (EX)

11. The Secretary of State for Employment should be made a member: Lord Young was a regular attender as Minister without Portfolio and the employment implications of export support are in any case important.

12. Of the MISC Groups some of those that were recently active may not need to meet again - eg MISC 115 on Tourism - and it may be better to make changes to others if and when they resume their activity. MISC 111 (Social Security) is likely to meet in the fairly near future and you may wish Mr Tebbit to be invited to join this.

13. No changes are recommended for the Legislation Committee (L).

Home and Social Affairs Committee (H)

14. Lord Young has proposed that Mr Clarke should take on the full membership of it in his stead though Lord Young himself might wish to attend occasional meetings in place of Mr Clarke.

Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OD)

15. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland should continue to be given the opportunity of attending all meetings. I have not proposed the inclusion of the Secretary of State for Employment, despite his wider responsibilities, as defence



issues of major economic consequence, for example the recent MISC 110 Study on Defence Research and Development, have tended to be taken in ES or E(A). Mr Tebbit has also expressed an interest in OD. An alternative to making him a full member might be to send him copies of all the papers and invite him to attend for items of particular interest. *Yes mt*

Sub-Committee on UK Relations with the Republic of Ireland
(OD(I))

16. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry should be deleted and the Home Secretary added. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Chief Secretary, Treasury should continue as members. Under such arrangements, the experience of Mr Hurd and Mr Tebbit would continue to be available to the Committee which Mr King and Mr McGregor would join in their new Ministerial roles.

Sub-Committee on Home Defence (OD(HD))

17. Mr Tebbit has expressed an interest in this Committee. An arrangement whereby he received papers and was invited to attend for items of particular interest might be most appropriate. *Yes mt*

Sub-Committee on Terrorism (OD(T))

18. Mr Tebbit has a strong personal interest in this Committee. If you did not wish to make him a full member, an arrangement similar to that suggested for OD and OD(HD) might suffice. *A full member mt*



Minister of State, Privy Council Office

19. I propose that the Minister of State, Privy Council Office should not be a full member of E(A), E(LF), H, L and QL, but should receive papers and be invited to attend when matters relating to his responsibilities for the arts or for the Civil Service are to be discussed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'R' and 'A' in a stylized, cursive font.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 September 1985