

MRS. RICHARDS

cc Mr. Alison
Miss Brine
C/F
Front Door
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Joce
Mrs. Gaisman ✓

DELIVERING PETITIONS TO NO.10

We concluded today that the arrangements for agreeing to the delivery of petitions need some tightening up.

Our main concern was to ensure that, whenever a time is given to a group wanting to send a delegation to deliver something to the Front Door, this fits in with other arrangements already in the diary. For instance, we should try and avoid delegations coming up the Street at a time when the Prime Minister, or outsiders, are arriving or leaving. You will remember the jostling which ensued when the All Hackney Pensioners Convention recently delivered a petition at the same time as a good number of outsiders, including Cabinet Ministers, were arriving for the French bilaterals. The complaint of rough handling that was lodged by the leader of the delegation after that incident was, I am sure, quite unfounded. But we need to make sure that the potential for any clashes of that kind in the future is kept to an absolute minimum.

We accordingly agreed that you would take steps to see requests to deliver petitions (when these are not for the Political Office to deal with), and would scan the diary to make sure an appropriate time is fixed.

MEA

Mark Addison

28 November 1985