

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

ROSKILL REPORT

You said yesterday that you would like to think over the weekend about which Cabinet Minister should be given the task of considering Roskill's recommendation for a unified organisation and the related recommendations on resources, etc.

There seem to be two main possibilities: the Chief Secretary and the Paymaster General.

The Chancellor pressed the claims of the Chief Secretary though he said he would not be disappointed if you decided against. Mr. MacGregor has an LL.B. from Kings College, London, and was a Director of Hill Samuel from 1973 to 1979. I was surprised that the Chancellor put him forward, because it would tie his hands in arguing for restraint in the provision of extra resources. On the other hand, the Treasury may have taken the view that they would not be listened to on this point and their position would be stronger if the Chief Secretary were in the Chair.

The alternative is probably Mr. Clarke. Mr. Clarke is a Silk. Who's Who shows no City connections,

You have in mind, of course, that Mr. Clarke might take on the day-to-day work on inner cities under Lord Young's guidance. If you see any attraction in Mr. Clarke also taking on the Roskill work you could discuss Mr. Clarke's workload with Lord Young when you see him on Sunday evening.

We should ideally promulgate your decision on Monday so that this can be taken into account in the Home Secretary's statement on Tuesday.

Whom would you like to take this on?

*I think John Taylor*

*DNV*

DAVID NORGROVE

10 January 1986

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