

5
806

PREM 19/666

Cabinet Committee Structure & Membership

PART 1

CABINET

**Material used by
Official Historian
DO NOT DESTROY**

May 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
8-5-79		24.9.81		25.6.82			
10.5.79		25.9.81		28.6.82			
18.5.79		2.10.81		14.7.82			
1.6.79		9.10.81		4.8.82			
25.2.80		19.10.81		30.9.82			
10.4.80		21.10.81		ENDS			
8.7.80		9.11.81					
6-1-81		10-11-81					
8-1-81		13.11.81					
16.1.81		30.11.81					
7.9.81		11.2.82					
19.1.81		19.1.82					
22.1.81		16.3.82					
9.2.81		6.4.82					
21.7.81		11.4.82					
22.9.81		20.4.82					
		22.4.82					
		26.4.82					
		6.5.82					
		14.5.82					
		16.6.82					
		21.6.82					

PREM 19/666

PART 1 ends:-

MCS to RTA 30.9.82.

PART 2 begins:-

HDO(WB)(I)(82) 2 4.10.82.

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
H (81) 4	9.1.81
H (HL) (81) 1	9.1.81
OD (HD) (81) 1	9.1.81
OD (81) 1	9.1.81
QL (81) 1	9.1.81
E (NF) (81) 1	9.1.81
E (81) 2	9.1.81
IT (81) 2	14.1.81
CCU (81) 6	19.1.81
OD (AI) (81) 1	22.1.81
CCU (N) (81) 1	27.1.81
CCU (81) 7	26.1.81
H (HL) (81) 5	21.7.81
L (81) 84	22.9.81
E (81) 89	22.9.81
QL (81) 14	22.9.81
H (81) 60	22.9.81
OD (81) 46	22.9.81
H (HL) (81) 6	25.9.81
OD (HD) (81) 3	29.9.81
OD (E) (81) 24	29.9.81
E (EA) (81) 34	30.9.81
E (PSP) (81) 21	30.9.81
E (81) 94	2.10.81
OD (81) 47	2.10.81

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB** (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed Wayland

Date 6 June 2012

PREM Records Team

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
OD (81) 47	2.10.81
OD (AI) (81) 14	2.10.81
E (NI) (81) 1	9.10.81
E (NF) (81) 5	9.10.81
H (HL) (81) 6	25.9.81
RCT (81) 6	19.10.81
E (DL) (81) 14	19.10.81
E (PU) (81) 6	19.10.81
QL (81) 15	3.11.81
H (HL) (81) 7	3.11.81
L (81) 104	3.11.81
OD (E) (81) 28	3.12.81
PY (82) 2	19.1.82
ODO (SA) (82) 1	6.4.82
E (NI) (82) 13	20.4.82
E (EA) (82) 8	20.4.82
E (PSP) (82) 9	20.4.82
E (DL) (82) 4	20.4.82
EX (82) 4	20.4.82
E (82) 37	20.4.82
E (PU) (82) 3	20.4.82
OD (E) (82) 4	22.4.82
EQO (82) 66	22.4.82
OD (T) (82) 1	22.4.82
OD (HD) (82) 5	22.4.82

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed Wayland

Date 6 June 2012

PREM Records Team

Cabinet

FILE

da

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Ministerial Group on Rate Support Grant (MISC 21)

In your minute of 24 September to Mr. Butler you proposed a number of changes in the membership of MISC 21.

The Prime Minister agrees with these proposals.

I am sending a copy of this minute to John Halliday (Home Office).

MLs

30 September 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

da



Prime Minister ①

Agree to these changes?

Yes mb

MLS 27/9

Ref. A09558

MR BUTLER

Ministerial Group on Rate Support Grant (MISC 21)

MISC 21 will soon begin work on the 1982 Rate Support Grant (RSG) settlement. Since the Group last met there have been two Ministerial changes which have a bearing on the composition of the Group: Mr Biffen has replaced Mr Pym as Lord President; and Mr Parkinson has been appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

✓ 2. As Lord President, Mr Pym took part in MISC 21's discussion last year; I assume that the Prime Minister will wish Mr Biffen to do so this year: the RSG Order is a potentially contentious piece of Parliamentary business.

✓ 3. Mr Parkinson sits on the Ministerial Group on Local Government Organisation and Finance (MISC 79); there would seem to be a good case also for his having the chance to participate in MISC 21's discussions.

4. If the Prime Minister is content, I will arrange for the Lord President and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be invited to the Group's meetings.

5. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Home Secretary.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

24 September 1982

SECRET

6 Sub
Cabinet
ll

MR. HATFIELD
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 6 August (reference A09237) about maintaining a Cabinet Committee to deal with overseas emergencies. The Prime Minister wishes to keep the existing OD(SA) Committee in being under a different title (perhaps OD(CM)) but with the same membership. She has noted that Sir Robert is reviewing what other operational lessons arise from the Falklands crisis.

T. FLESHER

9 August 1982

SECRET

Ref. A09237

PRIME MINISTER

*We will keep the
Cabinet Committee
in being. It would
well. OD(LM).
Prime Minister:
Same membership?
6/8.*

At the end of your meeting on Gibraltar on 4th August, you referred to the possibility of maintaining in being a Cabinet Committee with the same structure as OD(SA) to deal with emergency situations such as those which might arise in respect of Gibraltar and Belize.

2. It would of course be possible to designate a Sub-Committee of OD as a "crisis management committee". There would perhaps be two disadvantages about doing that:

(a) We should be liable to have arguments about membership; in particular, I suspect that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would expect to be a member of any such Committee.

(b) It is not easy in advance of a crisis to know exactly what membership one is likely to want when the crisis occurs: so much can depend on what the crisis is about.

3. But I agree with you that we should learn the lessons from the handling of the Falkland Islands affair. One of those lessons, to my mind, should certainly be that, when a crisis of this kind looks like developing, we should at a very early stage set up the equivalent of OD(SA) with the appropriate membership to act as a crisis management committee.

4. I am also reviewing, with those most closely concerned, what other operational lessons there are to be learnt from the handling of the Falkland Islands crisis, so that, if another such crisis were to arise, we could respond fast, flexibly and efficiently.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6th August, 1982



Cabinet
Jae AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

FCO REPRESENTATION ON OD(FAF)

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A09036 of 16 July 1982, and she is content that Mr Onslow should attend OD(FAF) meetings on a regular basis and should be accompanied by either Sir Antony Acland or Sir Peter Preston.

AH.

19 July 1982

AH

Ref: A09036

MR. COLES



1
Prime Minister.
Agree x |, y | → z | hms?
Yes ms
16 vii

Foreign and Commonwealth Representation on OD(FAF)

X | You will recall that at the meeting of OD(FAF) on 6th July the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, who was absent abroad, was represented by the Minister of State, Mr. Cranley Onslow. Mr. Onslow is, as the Prime Minister will be aware, taking a close interest in the details of rehabilitation work on the Falkland Islands and is supervising the work of an interdepartmental group responsible for monitoring it. In these circumstances, and given the difficulties over regular attendance by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Pym has suggested that there would be considerable advantage in Mr. Onslow attending OD(FAF) meetings on a regular basis (although he would of course attend himself whenever possible).

2. This seems a sensible suggestion. May I ask you to seek the Prime Minister's agreement?

Y | 3. It was agreed that the Secretary of State for Defence might be accompanied to a recent meeting of OD(FAF) by the Chief of the Defence Staff where a military issue was to be discussed, and we should no doubt agree that that might happen again in similar circumstances in future. I have been asked whether the Prime Minister would consider similarly authorising the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Mr. Onslow to be accompanied either by Sir Antony Acland or Sir Peter Preston as may be appropriate in the light of the subject matter. Z | I should be grateful for a ruling on this.

4. The next meeting of OD(FAF) is due to take place on Tuesday, 21st July at 4.15 pm.

Robert Armstrong

16th July 1982



With the Compliments

of

The Permanent Secretary

Department of Transport

2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB

Telephone 01-212 4581

SECRET



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 4581

cc JD

4

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
SIR PETER BALDWIN, KCB

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

28 June 1982

RECEIVED
DEPT OF TRANSPORT
28 JUN 1982

Dear Sir Robert,

OFFICIAL GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON THE RAILWAYS: MISC 81

Thank you for your letter of 25 June about MISC 81.

I should like to nominate Peter Lazarus to represent the Department of Transport on this Group. But the pressures on him are very intense at present, and he may need to send John Palmer - or in his absence Robin Goodfellow, who combines responsibilities for railways and transport industrial relations generally - in his place from time to time.

I am copying this letter to those who received copies of yours.

Yours sincerely,

P. Baldwin

PETER BALDWIN

2861 RNF O-5

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

010
C A Whitmore Esq



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 01-233 8319

SECRET



Emp 4 M Vercher. 3
27.11

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

Cabinet

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref. A08827

25 June 1982

Official Group on Industrial Action on the Railways: MISC 81

The Prime Minister has approved the setting up of a new Official Group on Industrial Action on the Railways (MISC 81) under the chairmanship of Peter Gregson in the Cabinet Office, with membership at Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary level. This new Official Group will take over from the existing Official Group on Railway Policy (MISC 72).

The Official Group will be comprised of representatives from the following Departments:

Treasury
Industry
Transport
Energy
Employment
CPRS
No 10 Policy Unit

The Ministry of Defence and the Law Officers' Department will receive copies of the Group's papers and will be invited to attend as appropriate.

I should be grateful if you would let me have the names of your Department's representatives by close of business on Monday 28 June.

I am sending copies of this letter to Douglas Wass, Peter Carey, Donald Maitland, Ken Barnes, Frank Cooper, James Nursaw, John Sparrow and Clive Whitmore.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Peter Baldwin KCB

SECRET



File

2

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

MACHINERY FOR HANDLING CURRENT INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A08805 of 25 June 1982 about the machinery for handling the current industrial disputes in the National Health Service and the railways, and as I told Mr. Wright earlier this afternoon, she has approved your proposals, subject to 2 charges. First, she would like the Chancellor of the Duchy added to the membership of the Ministerial Group. Second, she thinks that the terms of reference should be amended to read "... to consider and coordinate the Government's policy regarding those disputes, including the public relations aspects ...".

JMW

25 June 1982

JSC

Ref. A08805

PRIME MINISTER

*Agree - see
amendments
over page
ms.*

Machinery for Handling Current Industrial Disputes

The question of the machinery for handling the railway and National Health Service disputes came up at Cabinet this morning. As the discussion showed, this needs to be pulled together. You have had a few ad hoc meetings, both on the National Health Service (NHS) disputes and on the railway disputes; the Chancellor has had a few ad hoc meetings with particular Ministers on particular aspects of each dispute, and the Home Secretary has chaired a meeting of the Civil Contingencies Unit on the railways.

2. With a major rail strike now virtually unavoidable next week, there is a pressing need for more systematic arrangements. The proposals which are set out below are based on the following assumptions:

- (a) You would prefer to put a senior Minister in charge from day to day, reserving the right to take meetings yourself when major issues are involved.
- (b) There would be merit in the same group of Ministers keeping an eye on both the rail and NHS disputes.
- (c) The Group must inevitably be concerned not only with strategic and policy issues relating to the disputes but also with practical steps which can be taken to mitigate their effects.
- (d) The standing membership of the Group should be kept as small as possible, on the understanding that other Ministers may often need to be brought in for particular discussions.

3. On these assumptions I would propose the setting-up, in the MISC series, of a Ministerial Group on Current Industrial Disputes composed as follows:

Chairman	-	Chancellor of the Exchequer
Members	-	Secretary of State for Transport
		Secretary of State for Social Services
		Secretary of State for Employment
		Mr Sparrow

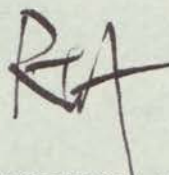
The Home Secretary would be invited to attend for "CCU type" issues. The Secretary of State for Energy would need to be brought in whenever coal stocks or action by the miners was likely to be raised, and the Secretary of State for Industry whenever effects on industry were an issue; the Secretary of State for Scotland may need to be brought in if there are particular problems in Scotland; and the Attorney General will need to come in when there are questions requiring legal advice.

4. As terms of reference, I suggest:

"To keep under review the current industrial disputes in the National Health Service and the railways; to consider and co-ordinate the Government's policy regarding those disputes ^{including public relations} and to consider measures, other than those falling within the terms of reference of the Civil Contingencies Unit, to mitigate their effects."

5. I also wish to propose some changes in the machinery at official level. At present we have a Group on Railway Policy (MISC 72) under the chairmanship of a Department of Transport Under Secretary, Mr Palmer. I think, and Sir Peter Baldwin agrees, that the point has now been reached where it would be desirable to set up a new and higher-level Official Group on Industrial Action on the Railways under Cabinet Office chairmanship (Mr Gregson) reflecting the composition of the Ministerial Group and with participation from the No 10 Policy Unit as well as the CPRS. This arrangement would have the advantage of achieving the necessary co-ordination with the work of the Official Group on Coal (MISC 57) whose chairmanship Mr Gregson has taken over from Mr Wade-Gery.

6. If you agree, I shall put in hand the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

25 June 1982

Cabinet

19A

Ref. A08756

PRIME MINISTERMachinery for Handling a Rail Strike

Now that a major rail strike seems virtually inevitable, and following this morning's ad hoc meeting, I think that we should reconsider the arrangements for handling it at both Ministerial and Official levels.

2. At Ministerial level I think that there would be advantage in replacing the present series of ad hoc meetings by a Ministerial Group on Industrial Action on the Railways, in the MISC series. I suggest that it should be under your chairmanship, but with a clear understanding that, if circumstances arise when there has to be a meeting for which you cannot be available, the Home Secretary takes the chair. The Cabinet Office would then take on the task of arranging and servicing the meetings. There would also be an agenda with papers on specific items, rather than the haphazard accumulation of minutes and letters as at present. The composition of the Group might be as follows:

Home Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Industry
Secretary of State for Transport
Secretary of State for Energy
Secretary of State for Employment
Mr Sparrow

The Attorney General would be invited to attend when there were questions requiring legal advice to be discussed.

3. At Official level we already have a Group on Railway Policy (MISC 72) under the chairmanship of a Department of Transport Under Secretary, Mr Palmer. I think that the point has now been reached where it would be desirable to set up a new and higher-level Official Group on Industrial Action on the Railways under

Cabinet Office chairmanship (Mr Gregson) reflecting the composition of the Ministerial Group and with participation from the No 10 Policy Unit as well as the CPRS. This arrangement would have the advantage of achieving the necessary co-ordination with the work of the Official Group on Coal (MISC 57) whose chairmanship Mr Gregson has taken over from Mr Wade-Gery.

4. If you agree, I shall put in hand the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

5. None of this need affect either the commission given this morning to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to sort out with the Secretaries of State for Transport and Employment, the Attorney General and Mr Sparrow the legal position in relation to ASLEF, and the commission given to the Home Secretary to examine (in the Civil Contingencies Unit) the implications of a combination of an extended strike of London Transport with a strike of British Rail. Both are proceeding urgently.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

21 June 1982

edition

SECRET

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

COPY NO

1

CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

—
OD(FAF)(82) 1

The attached revised copy of OD(FAF)(82) 1 should be substituted for the copy now in your possession and the latter returned to Committee Section, Cabinet Office, Whitehall.

Cabinet Office

21 June 1982

SECRET

FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

da



Cabinet

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Falkland Islands: The Future

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A08667 of 14 June 1982 about the establishment of a new Sub-Committee of OD to deal with the future of the Falkland Islands.

She is content with the terms of reference for the new Sub-Committee and would be grateful if you would arrange for it to be set up as soon as possible.

JAW.

16 June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

da

010
Ref: A08667


CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister.

Content?

HW
14th

Yes not

Falkland Islands: The Future

We discussed arrangements for handling Ministerial consideration of the various problems which will have to be addressed once we have repossessed the Falklands. You agreed that a new Sub-Committee of OD should be set up under your chairmanship, with the following composition:-

Prime Minister

Home Secretary

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Defence

Secretary of State for Trade

Attorney General

2. I suggest that the new Sub-Committee should be given the title of OD(FAF) (Future Arrangements for the Falklands) and should have the following terms of reference:-

"To consider future constitutional, administrative and security arrangements for the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies, the measures of restoration required, and the possibilities for economic and social development; and to report as necessary to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee."

3. If you agree, I will make arrangements to establish the Sub-Committee at once.



Robert Armstrong

14th June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

File 2B



Cabinet

Original filed on -

Next Ind: Policy: 10.6.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 May 1982

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had a word with the Prime Minister this afternoon on several nationalised industries matters. The Chancellor said that he was concerned about the way in which the Government approached making new appointments to the Chairmanship and Boards of nationalised industries. It was often an unco-ordinated process, and there was a risk that the soundings of one sponsoring Minister might overlap, or be inconsistent with, those of another. He proposed that he should convene a meeting of the sponsoring Ministers in order to discuss how to improve co-ordination, and how to identify more effectively promising potential candidates for these posts. The Prime Minister said that it would be important not to set up a new piece of administrative bureaucracy. But she generally agreed with this approach, and hoped that some good would come of it.

The Chancellor also raised the Chairmanship, and the frequency of meetings of E(NI) Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee had a good deal of detailed work ahead of it, and it was important, in order to keep up the momentum, to have fairly frequent meetings. The Prime Minister agreed, and said that she would like to chair the Sub-Committee when matters of particular moment were before it; otherwise, she was content for the Chancellor to chair its meetings.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry), Anthony Mayer (Department of Transport), Julian West (Department of Energy), Muir Russell (Scottish Office), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Terry Mathews (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Barnaby Shaw (Department of Employment) and David Wright (Cabinet Office). A copy also goes to Gerry Spence (CPRS).

M. G. SCYLLAR

Peter Jenkins, Esq.,
H.M. Treasury.

CONFIDENTIAL



From the Secretary of State

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

26th April 1982

Dear Mike,

I wrote to you on 22 April copying to Departments on the EX(O) circulation list. For the record, members of EX(O) are:-

Mr J Caines, Department of Trade (Chairman)

Representatives of -

Policy Unit, 10 Downing Street
Treasury
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Department of Industry
Ministry of Defence
Department of Trade
Export Credits Guarantee Department
Central Policy Review Staff
Cabinet Office

Yours Ever,

Jonathan Rees

J N REES
Private Secretary

Cabinet

Mr Cole's ^{copy} ~~copy~~

Fascinatingly

MUS 26/4



Cabinet JLR

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONGMINISTERIAL CHANGES: CABINET COMMITTEES

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A08087 of 8 April 1982 and has approved all your proposals for changes in the composition of Cabinet Ministerial Committees following last week's Ministerial changes, with one exception.

She does not think it would be right to ask the Home Secretary to take on the Chairmanship of OD(AI): she has commented that he already has too much to do. Instead she would prefer to abolish the sub-committee and bring its business either to OD or, if appropriate, to H.

C. A. WHITMORE

11 April 1982

LW

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

*L. (Imm) Minister.
Agree with proposals?
R
P*

See version

Ministerial Changes: Cabinet Committees

Following the Ministerial changes which were announced on Tuesday, 6th April, I have considered whether any changes are needed in the composition of Cabinet Ministerial Committees.

2. In the case of Committees which are chaired by the Prime Minister (E, E(EX), E(TP), E(NI), OD, OD(SA) and OD(T)) I would recommend that Lord Cockfield should take the place of his predecessor, although for E(TP) I would also recommend inviting Mr. Biffen to stay on the Sub-Committee in his new capacity as Lord President. We had included Mr. Biffen in the original composition not only because of his departmental responsibilities but also because of the broad political contribution which he would be able to make personally. He will in any case have an interest as Lord President because the new telecommunications proposals, if approved, will be a major element in next Session's legislative programme.

3. The change in the Ministerial offices of Lady Young and Mr. Parkinson necessitates some consequential changes. Both Lady Young and Mr. Parkinson were members of E but Mr. Atkins, as the previous Lord Privy Seal, was not. I suggest that they should both remain members in spite of the change in their titles. Lady Young was also a member of OD as Chancellor of the Duchy. She would remain a member as Lord Privy Seal. I suggest that, as Mr. Parkinson is a member of the South Atlantic Sub-Committee (OD(SA)), he should be added to OD. This would mean that the number and titles of the members of the committee would stay the same as hitherto, even though there would now only be one Foreign Office Minister.

4. A further consideration in respect of OD is whether the Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for European questions (Mr. Hurd), should be invited to attend OD when European Community business is to be discussed. This would no doubt relieve Mr. Pym of some of the burden of his post as well as ensuring the presence of the Minister in day-to-day control of European Community matters.

*Agree with...
with...
Hurd*

Mr. Pym will have to do the final negotiations on the 'mandate' ministry.

CONFIDENTIAL

5. The Prime Minister chairs MISC 7 and the previous Lord President of the Council was a member. This was largely a consequence of Mr. Pym's former tenure as Secretary of State for Defence. I would not recommend that Mr. Biffen should take over Mr. Pym's position on MISC 7.

Answer

6. Although Mr. Pym was not a member of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (E), he had a standing invitation to attend if he so wished. In view of Mr. Biffen's former membership of this committee, I would recommend that that standing invitation should continue for Mr. Biffen. *Yes*

In view of Mr Biffen's former membership of this committee, I would recommend that that standing invitation should continue for Mr. Biffen.

7. As for other Committees of which Lady Young is a member (E(PSP), E(PU), H, H(HL), L, OD(MD) and QL), she attends either as Leader of the House of Lords or as Minister in day-to-day charge of the Management and Personnel Office, and I recommend that she should remain a member as Lord Privy Seal. Mr. Parkinson was a member of H, HL, L and QL and should remain a member as Chancellor of the Duchy and Paymaster General.

8. There is one more difficult problem: the chairmanship of OD(AI) (the Sub-Committee of OD which deals with Anglo-Irish affairs). When OD(AI) was first set up last year, it was suggested that it should be chaired by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Lord Carrington was unhappy about this and said that he would prefer the chairmanship to be held by a Minister without a direct departmental interest and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office should be represented on the Committee by the Lord Privy Seal. The chairmanship went to Mr. Pym as Lord President (after an initial period during which it was held by Sir Ian Gilmour when he was Lord Privy Seal). I doubt whether Mr. Biffen will want to take this on. The two obvious candidates are the Home Secretary and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. This would be an additional responsibility for Mr. Pym and it might be preferable for him to be a member if the Home Secretary could be persuaded to take the chair. Although the Home Office is involved in the Anglo-Irish Joint Studies their interest is less than that of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. If the Prime Minister agrees, I should like to try to prevail upon the Home Secretary to take this on.

The Home Secretary already has too much to do. We had better abolish the subcommittee or to have Ministerial Committee



CONFIDENTIAL

9. As for other Committees of which the Prime Minister is not Chairman, I recommend that Lord Cockfield should take the places of his predecessor, Mr. Biffen. The fact that there is now only one Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister in the Cabinet creates a problem for the membership of L and OD(E). It is certainly necessary for there to be Foreign and Commonwealth representation on L since it considers legislative questions related to the European Community. But I do not think that the attendance at L Committee would be a proper call on the time of the new Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. I therefore think that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office should be represented by one of their Ministers of State (there are already five non-Cabinet Ministers on the Committee). Mr. Atkins was also a member of OD(E) in addition to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary as Chairman. Again, I would recommend that this should be a Minister of State, presumably Mr. Hurd.

Hurd

RTA

Robert Armstrong

8th April 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

2cc

AA



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

6 April 1982

Dear David,

Your Secretary of State had a word with me yesterday on a couple of occasions about the membership of the Prime Minister's inner group of Ministers which has been dealing with the Falkland Islands.

I have now been able to consult Mrs Thatcher about this, and she has agreed that the membership of the group should be revised in the way suggested by Mr Nott. I enclose, very much for your information only at this stage, a copy of a minute which I have sent to Sir Robert Armstrong this morning telling him what arrangements the Prime Minister wishes to be made. I think that this meets all Mr Nott's points.

Yours sincerely,

John White.

David Omand Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

AA

CONFIDENTIAL



File AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

FALKLAND ISLANDS : COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for your minute of 3 April 1982 about Cabinet Committee arrangements for dealing with the Falkland Islands.

I have now been able to consult the Prime Minister, and she agrees that the major decisions should be taken by the Cabinet or by OD. She is very ready for the CDS and the CNS, as necessary, to be invited to OD. She is also happy for the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee to attend as an additional member of the secretariat when that would be helpful.

As you anticipated, she wants her existing small group of Ministers to continue in being as the body in which the most urgent decisions are taken. She has, however, decided to change slightly the membership and it will now consist of:-

Prime Minister
Home Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Secretary of State for Defence
Paymaster General

Again, members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee will need to be invited as necessary. She also agrees that the group should now be designated as a sub-committee of OD. This means, of course, that the Cabinet Office will provide the secretariat.

I should be grateful if you could promulgate urgently the establishment of the new sub-committee to those who need to know about it.

AW

6 April 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

AW

Confidential

Mr Whitmore ^{KMS}

In the next phase of the Falklands crisis, thinking about what action should be taken, both diplomatically and militarily, is going to evolve, as circumstances develop and as the military appraisals are more fully worked out.

2. I think that we ought to get the decision-making process on to a more orderly footing.

3. Major decisions will need to be taken by the Cabinet or the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee (OD). During this phase the Chief of the Defence Staff (who should be back by Tuesday) and ~~then~~ perhaps the Chief of the Naval Staff

Confidential

will normally need to be invited to TD,
and we may find it convenient to add
the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff
Committee as an additional member
of the Secretariat, to ensure that decisions
are quickly conveyed and put into
effect.

4. The Prime Minister will want and
need to keep her small group in
being. So far you have assumed the
service of that, but I should like
to suggest that we should now take
that on, not just to take the load
off you and your colleagues at No. 10,
but also to enable the Defence
Secretariat to ensure coordination
and provide briefing.

Confidential

5. This could be done, in the formal sense, by making the small group a sub-committee of OD, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and including the Home Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Lord President and the Defence Secretary. For a continuing group we should probably add the Chancellor of the Exchequer; should we also add the Secretary of State for Trade, ~~or~~ or is his membership of OD sufficient to cover his political and departmental interests?

6. The secretaries of the new sub-committee would of course need to keep in very close touch with you and Mr Coles, as well as with departments.

RCA 3. iv. 82

F. Cab, C Nees +
Strud

COPY NO 3

LIST OF MINISTERS
(16 March 1982)

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
(27 October 1981)

Prime Minister	The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department	The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP
Lord Chancellor	The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	The Rt Hon Lord Carrington
Chancellor of the Exchequer	The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP
Secretary of State for Education and Science	The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP
Lord President of the Council	The Rt Hon Francis Pym MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	The Rt Hon James Prior MP
Secretary of State for Defence	The Rt Hon John Nott MP
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	The Rt Hon Peter Walker MP
Secretary of State for the Environment	The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for Scotland	The Rt Hon George Younger MP
Secretary of State for Wales	The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP
Lord Privy Seal	The Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP
Secretary of State for Industry	The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for Trade	The Rt Hon John Biffen MP
Secretary of State for Transport	The Rt Hon David Howell MP
Secretary of State for Social Services	The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Chief Secretary, Treasury	The Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	The Rt Hon Baroness Young
Secretary of State for Energy	The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Secretary of State for Employment	The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP
Paymaster General	The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP

LAW OFFICERS

Attorney General	The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP
Lord Advocate	The Rt Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern QC
Solicitor General	Sir Ian Percival QC MP
Solicitor General for Scotland	Mr Peter Fraser MP

MINISTERS NOT IN THE CABINET

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury	The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP
Minister of State, Home Office	The Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP
Minister of State, Home Office	Mr Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Mr Richard Luce MP
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Minister for Overseas Development	The Rt Hon Neil Marten MP
Financial Secretary, Treasury	The Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Minister of State, Treasury	Mr Barney Hayhoe MP
Economic Secretary, Treasury	Mr Jock Bruce-Gardyne MP
Minister of State, Treasury	Lord Cockfield
Minister of State, Department of Education and Science (Minister for the Arts)	The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office	Earl of Gowrie
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office	The Hon Adam Butler MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence	Mr Peter Blaker MP

Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence	Viscount Trenchard
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Earl Ferrers
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	The Rt Hon Alick Buchanan-Smith MP
Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services)	The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Housing and Construction)	Mr John Stanley MP
Minister of State, Scottish Office	Earl of Mansfield
Minister of State, Department of Industry (Minister for Information Technology)	Mr Kenneth Baker MP
Minister of State, Department of Industry	Mr Norman Lamont MP
Minister of State, Department of Trade (Minister for Consumer Affairs)	Dr Gerard Vaughan MP
Minister of State, Department of Trade (Minister for Trade)	Mr Peter Rees QC MP
Minister of State, Department of of Health and Social Security (Minister for Health)	Mr Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Minister for Social Security)	Mr Hugh Rossi MP
Minister of State, Department of Energy	Mr Hamish Gray MP
Minister of State, Department of Employment	The Rt Hon Michael Alison MP

JUNIOR MINISTERS

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
MINISTRY OF

Parliamentary Secretary	Mrs Peggy Fenner MP
-------------------------	---------------------

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Defence Procurement

Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for the Armed Forces

Mr Jerry Wiggin MP

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of
State

Dr Rhodes Boyson MP
Mr William Shelton MP
The Hon William Waldegrave MP

EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of
State

Mr David Waddington MP
The Hon Peter Morrison MP

ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Mr John Moore MP
Mr David Mellor MP

ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Lord Bellwin
Mr Giles Shaw MP
Mr Neil Macfarlane MP
Sir George Young MP

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State

Lord Trefgarne

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY,
DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State

Lord Elton
Mr Geoffrey Finsberg MP
Mr Antony Newton MP

HOME OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Lord Belstead

INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State

Mr John MacGregor MP
Mr John Wakeham MP

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Mr David Mitchell MP
Mr John Patten MP
Mr Nicholas Scott MP

SCOTTISH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Mr Alexander Fletcher MP
Mr Malcolm Rifkind MP
Mr Allan Stewart MP

TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State

Mr Iain Sproat MP

TRANSPORT, DEPARTMENT OF

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Mr Reginald Eyre MP
Mrs Lynda Chalker MP

WELSH OFFICE

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
of State

Mr Michael Roberts MP
Mr Wyn Roberts MP

TREASURY

Treasurer of the Household
(Deputy Chief Whip)

Mr John Stradling Thomas MP

Comptroller of the Household

The Hon Anthony Berry MP

Vice Chamberlain of the Household

Mr Carol Mather MP

Lords Commissioners of the Treasury

The Hon Robert Boscawen MP
Mr John Cope MP
The Hon Peter Brooke MP
Mr John Gummer MP
Mr Alastair Goodlad MP

Assistant Government Whips

Mr Donald Thompson MP
Mr Nicholas Budgen MP
Mr David Hunt MP
Mr Ian Lang MP
Mr Tristan Garel-Jones MP

GOVERNMENT WHIPS, HOUSE OF LORDS

Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms

The Rt Hon Lord Denham

Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard
(Deputy Chief Whip, House of Lords)

Lord Sandys

Lords in Waiting

Viscount Long
Lord Lyell
Lord Cullen of Ashbourne
Earl of Avon
Lord Skelmersdale

Sup

Cabinet

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen and noted without comment (!) your minute A07345 of 5 February 1982 reporting the numbers of meetings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees in 1981 as compared with 1980.

C. A. WHITMORE

8 February 1982

Ref. A07345

PRIME MINISTER

A year ago I reported (my minute of 6 February 1981, A04207) a decline in the numbers of meetings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees in 1980, as compared with 1978.

2. The decline has continued, though more slowly. The figures are:

	<u>Change in Numbers of Meetings</u>	
	<u>1980 on 1978</u>	<u>1981 on 1980</u>
	%	%
Cabinet and other Ministerial Meetings	- 38	- 11
Official Meetings	- 36	- 1
Total	- 37	- 15

3. I am afraid that Ministers are winning.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5 February 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



*File in
Cabinet*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

MEMBERSHIP OF OD(E)

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 27 November and has agreed that the Secretary of State for Industry should become a member of OD(E).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

30 November 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

A

010.
Ref: A06125

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. ALEXANDER

Membership of OD(E)

①
Prime Minister
Agree to add Secretary of State for
Industry to list of members of
OD(E) *And*

Sir Peter Carey has suggested to me that the Secretary of State for Industry should become a full member of OD(E), instead of being invited only for particular items as at present. I attach a copy of the document setting out the present membership of OD(E).

2. Although the Prime Minister recently decided against enlarging the regular membership of the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee to accommodate the Secretary of State for Industry, there are good grounds for acceding to his request to join its Sub-Committee on European Questions.

3. The Department of Industry has an interest in a wide range of Community issues and may be increasingly involved in future as the problems of declining industries, of inward investment and industrial collaboration with Japan, and of the Community's regional policy come to the fore in Brussels in their turn. The Department is also in the lead on matters affecting Community industrial and research policies and is closely concerned with much of the work related to the development of the internal market. More generally, Mr Jenkin and his Ministerial colleagues in the Department of Industry are evidently anxious to play a full and positive role in the formulation of Government policy towards the Community. If he were to join the Sub-Committee its membership would rise from 6 to 7, so bringing it back to the level at which it stood before the Ministerial changes in September.

4. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would be content for the composition of OD(E) to be extended to include the Secretary of State for Industry.

*Yes
ms.*

RA

Robert Armstrong

27th November 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN QUESTIONS
(Authority: OD(E)(79) 1, OD(E)(81) 24)

Composition

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chairman).
Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
Lord Privy Seal.
Secretary of State for Trade.
Attorney General.

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of reference

"To consider questions relating to the United Kingdom's membership of the European Community."

Secretariat

Mr M D M Franklin, Cabinet Office.
Mr D M Elliott, Cabinet Office.
Mr S Wentworth, Cabinet Office.
Mr A M Goodenough, Cabinet Office.

Cabinet

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Ministerial Sub-Committee on Industrial
Relations in the Civil Service

The Prime Minister has seen your minute
AO5942 of 12 November 1981 and agrees that
E(CS) and OCS should be wound up.

1
A. WHITMORE

13 November 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

1

1.

Min. Minister.

Agree with E(CS) and OCS

should be wound up?

Yes mt

RM
12/11

Ref. A05942

PRIME MINISTER

The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Industrial Relations in the Civil Service

The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Industrial Relations in the Civil Service (E(CS)) was established in September 1979 with the terms of reference "to consider industrial relations questions in the Civil Service". There is a corresponding Official Committee (OCS). The intention was that E(CS) should fulfil two functions. First, to provide a forum in which Ministers could consider broad questions concerning potential industrial disputes in the Civil Service and management's best response to them; and second, to enable Ministers collectively to consider the tactical handling of disputes in the Civil Service.

2. Much of the former work has now been completed; the Sub-Committee has not met since November 1980. As for overseeing the tactical handling of industrial disputes in the Civil Service, E(CS) was not involved at all during the strike earlier this year. The main strategic decisions were taken by Cabinet or E Committee; and day-to-day decisions were taken by the Interdepartmental Group on Industrial Action, under the chairmanship of the Minister of State, Civil Service Department. In the event of a similar dispute in the future, careful consideration would have to be given to the best form of co-ordination machinery, but I imagine that arrangements similar to those which were devised this year might once again be employed.

3. It therefore seems that E(CS) and OCS have outlived their usefulness, and I therefore recommend that they should be wound up. Were matters to arise in the future requiring discussion at either Official or Ministerial level within the framework of the Cabinet Committee system, the terms of reference of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Public Service Pay (E(PSP)) and of its official counterpart (PSP(O)), are sufficiently flexible to accommodate the sort of issues that are likely to arise.

4. I have consulted the Departments concerned, at official level; they all agree.

5. If you agree, we will make the necessary arrangements.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

12 November 1981

Cabinet

CONFIDENTIAL

B



u

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Public
Service Pay

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 9 November about the membership of E(PSP).

She agrees that the Secretary of State for Education and Science should become a full member of the sub-committee, and would be grateful if you would make the necessary arrangements.

I am sending a copy of this minute to John Kerr (HM Treasury).

M. C. SCHOLMAN

10 November 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

Ref. A05916

PRIME MINISTER

Yes not

Agree that Sir K Joseph
become a member of this
sub-committee?

mes 9/11

The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Public Service Pay (E(PSP))

The Secretary of State for Education and Science has asked me whether he might be added to the membership of E(PSP).

2. You agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Committee was first set up that it should be kept small, being confined to the Secretary of State for Employment, the then Lord President of the Council and perhaps one or two other Ministers. Clearly the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Social Services had to be members because of their responsibilities for local government and the National Health Service respectively. You also agreed that it might be advantageous for the then Paymaster General to be a member because of his responsibilities for Government information, and also for the Chief Secretary, Treasury, to be appointed so that the full weight of presenting the Treasury case did not fall on the Chancellor. But in order to keep the Committee small other Ministers, such as the Secretary of State for Education and Science, who had responsibility for significant public service groups, had to be excluded from full membership.

3. In practice, the Secretary of State for Education and Science has had to be invited to four out of the six meetings which E(PSP) has held this year and last. Moreover, schoolteachers, in particular, are likely to be pretty militant this year over pay; there are already reports in the press about a claim being formulated well in excess of the Government's 4 per cent pay assumption and several months earlier than usual. Other public service pay claims will react on the teachers, and vice versa. There therefore seem to me good grounds for appointing the Secretary of State for Education and Science as a full member of the Sub-Committee.

4. If you agree, we shall make the necessary arrangements.

5. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chairman of E(PSP).

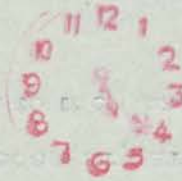
RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9th November, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

NOV 19 1981



TO: [Illegible]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]



010
C A Whitmore ✓ Esq



CABINET OFFICE

Mr Schuler ✓

KW
26x.

PM.

cc A Walters
Murguid

With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 01-233 8319

PRIME MINISTER

The Chief Whip is very reluctant to be a member of the Home Secretary's group on public expenditure: he feels that he would be in a false position in giving advice to the group on whether a particular proposal was likely to be capable of being got through the House, when it would be he who would have the responsibility in due course for trying to deliver the vote.

The Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer agree that the Chief Whip should not be pressed. He will be ready to act as a consultant behind the scenes.

I have discussed with the Home Secretary and the Chancellor who might replace him on the group. We considered various possibilities, including the Lord President (Chancellor unenthusiastic), the Paymaster General (Home Secretary unenthusiastic) and the Lord Privy Seal (no enthusiasm). So I have suggested settling for a group of four (the group approved without either the Chief Whip or the replacement). Both Ministers are content and I am proceeding accordingly.

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

*PM has seen and is content.
(London) Duty clerk told*

MMJ 22/x

22 OCTOBER 1981



Cabinet

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref. A05794

HOME SECRETARY

*Econ P51
see Public Expenditure*

Public Expenditure Group: MISC 62

At the meeting of Cabinet on 20th October, the Prime Minister said that she would arrange for further discussion of some public expenditure programmes by a small group of Ministers under your chairmanship.

2. The Prime Minister has instructed me to confirm her wish that you should chair this group and to invite the Secretaries of State for Scotland and for Industry and the Chief Secretary, Treasury, to be members of it.

3. Subject to confirmation that these proposals are acceptable to you and to the other Ministers invited, the group will be formally constituted as MISC 62. I propose that the Secretariat should be Mr. P. L. Gregson, Mr. D. J. L. Moore and Mr. D. J. Bostock of the Cabinet Office.

4. I envisage that neither the Chief Secretary nor spending Ministers should be accompanied by officials. It is arguable that it might be helpful for them to have with them one official if they so wish to assist Ministers in what will inevitably be detailed discussions; on the other hand, the group will be less inhibited in discussing the political aspects of the proposals if Departmental officials are not present, and I think that that should be the decisive consideration. But I suggest that it would be sensible to have present, in addition to the Cabinet Office Secretariat, a Treasury official, who could sit alongside the Secretariat, to keep the score on decisions reached by your group so that the Treasury can take them into account in their overall assessment of progress. They will need to be able to collate the decisions of your group with decisions taken by the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy and by bilateral meetings between the Chief Secretary and spending Ministers, for the purpose of reporting to the Cabinet in due course.

CONFIDENTIAL

5. I fear that, if the group is to report in time for Cabinet to discuss the outcome on 12th November, there will need to be an intensive series of meetings starting, if possible, towards the end of next week and taking place in particular in the first half of the week beginning 2nd November. The Secretariat will put forward specific proposals later, in the light of advice from the Treasury on progress on the bilaterals which the Chief Secretary is now having. Provisionally it looks as though there might need to be a meeting some time on Thursday 29th October, a meeting at 3.15 pm on 2nd November with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, meetings throughout Tuesday 3rd November, a meeting on Wednesday 4th November before the State Opening, and perhaps meetings will have to be rearranged to give priority to MISC 62.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and for Industry, and the Chief Secretary, Treasury. I should be grateful if they could let me know as soon as possible if the proposals are acceptable to them. I am also sending copies to other Members of the Cabinet, the Paymaster General and the Chief Whip.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23rd October 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

24 OCT 1981



JMS

NO DISTRIBUTION

OO UKDEL CANCUN DESKBY 212130Z OCT
GPS 350

DESKBY 212130Z OCT
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 211230Z OCT 1981
TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL CANCUN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 028 OF 21 OCTOBER

FOLLOWING FOR PRIME MINISTER FROM ROBERT ARMSTRONG.

1. I HAVE NOW AGREED WITH THE HOME SECRETARY AND WITH THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER THE COMPOSITION FOR THE HOME SECRETARYS SMALL GROUP ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AS FOLLOWS: HOME SECRETARY, SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND AND INDUSTRY, CHIEF SECRETARY AND CHIEF WHIP.
2. THIS DIFFERS FROM THE LIST YOU PROVISIONALLY AGREED WITH THE CHANCELLOR IN LEAVING OUT THE CHANCELLOR AND SUBSTITUTING MICHAEL JOPLING FOR NORMAL FOWLER.
3. THE HOME SECRETARY FELT THAT IT WAS OVERWEIGHTING THE TREASURY ELEMENT TO HAVE BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY: AND I THINK THAT HE ALSO FELT THAT THE CHANCELLORS SENIORITY WOULD CRAMP HIS STYLE AS CHAIRMAN. THE CHANCELLOR IS CONTENT, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHIEF SECRETARY AS WELL AS SPENDING MINISTERS WILL HAVE RIGHTS OF APPEAL, AND WILL BE ENTITLED TO RESERVE THEIR POSITIONS FOR CABINET IF THEY FEEL IT NECESSARY. THIS WILL GIVE THE CHANCELLOR A POSITION TO BECOME INVOLVED AT THE APPEAL STAGE.

4. THE HOME SECRETARY FELT THAT NORMAL FOWLERS DEPARTMENTAL INTERESTS WERE TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED FOR HIM TO BE ON THE GROUP: IT WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS SOME DIFFICULT ISSUES IN HIS FIELD, AND OTHER SPENDING MINISTERS WOULD NOT BE SURE OF HIS IMPARTIALITY, BECAUSE OF WHAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS AT STAKE. THE HOME SECRETARYS FIRST SUGGESTION WAS THE LORD PRESIDENT: WE EVENTUALLY AGREED THAT THE CHIEF WHIP WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE.

5. THE CHANCELLOR IS CONTENT, AND THINKS THAT AS NOW PROPOSED THE GROUP WILL BE A BALANCED AND EFFECTIVE BODY.

6. IF YOU ARE CONTENT, I SHOULD LIKE TO GET THE GROUP SET UP THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT NOW MEET UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

7. I HAVE ALSO PROVISIONALLY AGREED WITH THE CHANCELLOR THAT, IF WE CAN GET LOCAL AUTHORITY CURRENT EXPENDITURE SETTLED BY CORRESPONDENCE, THERE ARE NO DECISIONS CABINET NEED BE ASKED TO TAKE NEXT WEEK, AND IT MIGHT BE AS WELL TO GIVE THE CABINET A WEEKS RESPITE AND NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON 29 OCTOBER. THE NEXT DISCUSSION WOULD THEN BE ON 5 NOVEMBER.

CARRINGTON

NNNN



File AH
Cabinet

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister would be grateful if arrangements could be made for the Paymaster General to become a member of both QL and L.

I have mentioned this to Mr Parkinson and have added that if he finds that there are occasions when L is dealing with the detail of legislation to which he does not feel he has a contribution to make, he need not always attend.

AH.

21 October 1981

Att

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Following for Prime Minister from Robert Armstrong

I have now agreed with the Home Secretary and with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the composition for the Home Secretary's small group on public expenditure as follows: Home Secretary, Secretaries of State for Scotland and Industry, Chief Secretary, and Chief Whip.

2. This differs from the list you provisionally agreed with the Chancellor in leaving out the Chancellor and substituting Michael Jopling for Norman Fowler.

3. The Home Secretary felt that it was overweighing the Treasury element to have both the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary; and I think that he also felt that the Chancellor's seniority would cramp his style as chairman. The Chancellor is

content, on the understanding that ~~the~~ the
Chief Secretary ~~and~~ ~~spe~~ as well as
Spending Ministers will ~~be~~
~~reserve the right to~~ have rights
of appeal, and will be entitled to
reserve their positions for Cabinet if
they feel it necessary. This will give
the Chancellor a ^{position} ~~position~~ to become
involved at the appeal stage.

4. The Home Secretary felt that Norman
Fowler's departmental interests were too
closely involved for him to be on the
group: it will have to discuss some
difficult issues in his field, and
other Spending Ministers would not be
sure of his impartiality, because of
what his department has at stake.

The Home Secretary's first suggestion was the Lord President; we eventually agreed that the Chief Whip would be a better choice.

5. The Chancellor is content, and thinks that as now proposed the group will be a ~~fairly~~ balanced ~~and~~ and effective body.

~~The Home Secretary will be briefed to settle~~

6. If you are content, I should like to get the group set up this week, although it will not now meet until next week.

7. I have also provisionally agreed with the Chancellor that, if we can get local authority consent

expenditure settled by correspondence,
there being no decisions Cabinet
need be asked to take next
week, and ~~it~~ it might be as
well ~~advise~~ to give the Cabinet
a week's respite and not to
return to public expenditure on
29 October. ~~As~~ The
next discussion would then be
on 5 November.

Ref. A05722

MR WHITMORE

Sub-Committee on the House of Lords (H(HL))

I attach the revised composition and terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on the House of Lords following the recent Ministerial changes.

2. The Chief Whip thinks that it might be helpful if the Paymaster General was added to this Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is already fairly large at 11 Members; and the addition of the Paymaster General would weight the balance even further in favour of Members in the House of Commons (from 6-5 to 7-5). But there is clearly a strong "Party" element in the Sub-Committee's work, and this may make it appropriate to add the Paymaster General to its membership. If the Prime Minister agrees I will consult the Lord President; and, if he is content, I will then invite the Paymaster General to serve on the Sub-Committee.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 October 1981



Prime Minister.

Agree with M

Talbot's suggestion that

M Robinson should

Yes not

join L? If you do, he
ought logically to be a
member of Qh too. *file*

PRIME MINISTER

I notice that the Pay Master General is not listed
as a member of the Legislation Committee

Whilst I would not want to overburden him with
Committees it strikes me that especially in the
run up to the General Election (which we have
now entered!), he might make some important
contribution in assessing the priority of
legislation.

N7

N T

12 October 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



File ds
Cabinet

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Changes in Cabinet Committees

I have shown your minute A05597 of 23 September 1981 to the Prime Minister, and she has approved your proposals for changes in the membership of MISC 14 and MISC 56. She agrees that Sir Keith Joseph should remain a member of MISC 14 if he would like to do so.

E. A. WHITMORE

24 September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

1

Prime Minister

Agree these proposals?

Yes

RM
23/9

Ref. A05597

MR WHITMORE

Changes in Cabinet Committees

I should be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's views on the membership of two MISC groups: MISC 14 on Government Strategy and MISC 56 on Energy Prices.

2. The Secretaries of State for Industry and Employment have been members of MISC 14 on Government Strategy. I think that the Prime Minister would wish Mr Jenkin and Mr Tebbit to be members. I doubt whether Mr Prior should continue; but it is for consideration whether Sir Keith Joseph should be invited to continue to serve on this Group à titre personnel, if he would like to do so, even though he is not concerned by virtue of his new Departmental responsibilities.

Yes
Yes

2. The Secretaries of State for Industry and Energy are members of MISC 56 on Energy Prices. Again I think that Mr Jenkin and Mr Lawson should be members, as their predecessors were. In this case I should have thought that the balance of argument was against inviting either Sir Keith Joseph or Mr Howell to continue to serve on the Group.

Should

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23 September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown your minute A05556 of 17 September to the Prime Minister, and she has decided that Mr. Howell should continue to be a member of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy.

She would be grateful if you would make the necessary arrangements.

C A. WHITMORE

18 September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

A

Prime Minister.

I think Mr Howell should remain a member of E. After all, the main reason for keeping him in the Cabinet was that he is a voice on your side. He can make that voice heard in E, which is where it will count more than anywhere else except Cabinet itself. All

Ref. A05556

MR. WHITMORE

In my minute of 14th September I made recommendations for changes in the membership of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (E); in your minute of 15th September you told me that the Prime Minister had approved the changes, together with the addition of the Paymaster General.

2. I did not include the Secretary of State for Transport in the list, because (despite representations) his predecessor was not a full member but was invited only when his Departmental interests were involved in the subject to be discussed.

3. Mr. Howell is clearly very much hoping that he may continue to be a full member of E. He has been a member of it, as Secretary of State for Energy, since the formation of the Government; and he feels that his qualifications, experience, and interests going beyond Departmental matters, would enable him to make a continuing contribution.

4. I have no doubt that there is also an element of amour propre about it; and the effects of exclusion upon his morale will be intensified, if he learns that Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Prior have been kept on while he has not.

5. The addition of Mr. Howell would make an already large Committee (15) even larger. But this is a double-edged argument: once the Committee is as large as 15 members, one more does not really make very much difference.

6. I suppose that we could think in terms of a kind of compromise, whereby Mr. Howell would not become a full member of the Committee but he would receive all its papers and we would interpret liberally the criterion of "Departmental interests" in deciding whether he should be invited. I do not think that this would really be a very satisfactory compromise: it would not satisfy him, and it would make his attendance dependent upon our initiative and the Prime Minister's consent. So it would not be very much of a face-saver for him, and I think that it would be better to say either Yes or No.

7. I should be grateful for instructions.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Yes. If we have a very large committee - there is little point in that committee's things do behind

17th September, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

Cabinet Committees

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05529 of 16 September, and she has approved all your proposals for changes in the composition of Ministerial Committees other than the five main committees which you dealt with in your minute of 14 September.

IC A. WHITMORE

17 September, 1981.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

Nationalised Industries: Cabinet Committee

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05521 of 15 September, and she has agreed your proposals for the terms of reference and membership of the new committee to consider issues of nationalised industries policy.

She is also content that the Head of the CPRS and the Head of the new Nationalised Industries Review Staff in the CPRS should attend meetings of the committee. She has reservations, however, about the suggestion that members of the committee might be free to bring to meetings the Head of their Departmental Unit which deals with the affairs of a particular industry. She would sooner take decisions ad hoc about the attendance of departmental officials in the light of the business before the Committee.

The Prime Minister agrees with you that we should wait and see whether we need to set up an official committee to support the Ministerial Committee.

G. A. WHITMORE

17 September, 1981.

CONFIDENTIAL



1. Prime Minister
Agree to changes?
Yes
ML
16ix

MR. WHITMORE

Cabinet Committees

This minute makes proposals for changes in the composition of Ministerial Committees (other than the five main Committees dealt with in my submission of 14th September) to take account of the changes in Ministerial appointments.

2. I attach copies of the existing compositions, with proposed changes noted in MS. The following points arise:

Agreed

(i) Sir Keith Joseph was Chairman of E(EA) on economic affairs and of E(PU) on Government procurement policy. It seems right that his successor as Secretary of State for Industry should take his place.

Agreed

(ii) Sir Keith Joseph was also Chairman of E(DL) on disposals of public sector assets. Some months ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested that he should take over this chairmanship: now seems the right time for him to do so. In that event it seems unnecessary for both the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary to be members: I suggest that the Financial Secretary should remain as a member, and the Chief Secretary should be replaced by the Secretary of State for Transport whose Department is closely involved in the work of the Committee.

(iii) I have suggested that both Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Prior should stay on E, but I see no reason to burden them with any of the E Sub-Committees.

(iv) The old Sub-Committee on Nationalised Industry Financing will no longer be required, as it has been agreed to set up a new committee on nationalised industries policy (see my separate minute).

(v) I have assumed that the Lord President should continue on all the Committees of which he was a member as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

CONFIDENTIAL

- (vi) I have assumed that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should replace the Lord President on all Committees of which he was a member as Minister in day to day charge of the Civil Service Department (E(PSP)), (E(PU)), (OD(HD)) or as Leader of the House of Lords (H(HL)), but not on Committees of which he was a member a titre personnel (OD(E)).
- (vii) I assume that Lord Gowrie should continue to be a member of H(HL).
- (viii) There is a problem about the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee on Anglo-Irish Relations. You will remember that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary refused to take it, and only reluctantly agreed that Sir Ian Gilmour should do so. I don't think that it would be sensible to ask Mr. Atkins to take it. I therefore propose that Mr. Pym should be asked to take the chair - he is already a member - and that Mr. Atkins should be a member and represent the Foreign Office.
3. If the Prime Minister approves, we will put these changes into effect.

RIA

Robert Armstrong

16th September 1981

**MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC SECTOR ASSETS**

(Authority: E (DL) (79) 1, E (DL) (80) 2.)

Composition

~~Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman).~~ *Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chairman)*

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Secretary of State for the Environment.

Secretary of State for Trade.

Secretary of State for Energy.

← Secretary of State for Transport

~~Chief Secretary, Treasury.~~

Financial Secretary, Treasury.

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as appropriate.

Terms of reference

“To consider and keep under review all arrangements for the disposal of public sector assets, including land and buildings and for the introduction of private capital into the nationalised industries and to report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy.”

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

(Authority: E (EA) (79) 1)

Composition

Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman).

~~Secretary of State for Employment.~~

Secretary of State for the Environment.

Secretary of State for Scotland.

Secretary of State for Wales.

Secretary of State for Trade.

Secretary of State for Energy.

Chief Secretary, Treasury.

Secretary of State for Employment

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

**MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONALISED INDUSTRY FINANCING**

(Authority: E (NF) (80) 1, E (NF) (81) 1)

Composition

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chairman).
Secretary of State for Industry.
Secretary of State for the Environment.
Secretary of State for Scotland.
Secretary of State for Trade.
Secretary of State for Energy.
Secretary of State for Transport.
Chief Secretary, Treasury.

Terms of reference

"To consider the financial requirements of the nationalised industries and the means of financing them; and to report to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy from time to time."

*Committee to be wound up, as superseded
by new Committee on Nationalised
Industries Policy (see separate minute).*

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE PAY

(Authority: E (PSP) (80) 1, E (PSP) (81) 6.)

Composition

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chairman).

~~Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General.~~

Lord President of the Council.

~~Secretary of State for Employment.~~

Secretary of State for the Environment.

Secretary of State for Social Services.

Chief Secretary, Treasury.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Secretary of State for Employment

Terms of Reference

“ To co-ordinate the handling of pay issues in the public services, and to report as appropriate to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy.”

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY

(Authority: E (PU) (80) 1, E (PU) (81) 1.)

Composition

Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman).

~~Lord President of the Council.~~

~~Secretary of State for Employment.~~

Secretary of State for Defence.

↪ Lord Privy Seal.

↪ Secretary of State for the Environment.

↪ Secretary of State for Social Services.

↪ Secretary of State for Trade.

Chief Secretary, Treasury.

↪ Minister of State, Department of Industry (Mr. Baker).

← Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
← Secretary of State for Employment

Terms of Reference

"To monitor and advise as required upon the opportunities inherent in public sector purchasing and procurement for strengthening the international competitiveness of British industry, and to report to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON EXPORTS

(Authority: EX (80) 1)

Composition

Prime Minister.

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Secretary of State for Industry.

Secretary of State for Trade.

Terms of Reference

“To ensure that major cases involving Government support of exports are dealt with quickly and efficiently and to keep under review the arrangements for promoting the United Kingdom's international trade objectives”.

H(HL)

HOME AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS

(Authority: H(HL)(80) 1, H(HL)(81) 5)

Composition

~~Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General (Chairman).~~Lord President of the Council (*Chairman*)

Secretary of State for Scotland.

/ Attorney-General. *Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster*

Lord Advocate.

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Minister of State, Department of Industry (Mr Baker).

Minister of State, ~~Department of Employment~~ *Northern Ireland Office (Lord Gormie)*

Minister of State, Department of Education and Science (Minister for the Arts).

Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office.

Terms of reference

"To consider and report on possible options for reforming the composition and powers of the House of Lords."

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

(Authority: OD (AI) (81) 1)

Composition

~~Lord Privy Seal (Chairman).~~

~~Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General~~ *Lord President of the Council
(Chairman)*

Secretary of State for Defence.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Secretary of State for Trade.

← Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for ~~Energy~~ *Energy*

Chief Secretary, Treasury.

Minister of State, Home Office (Mr. Raison).

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of reference

"To give instructions for and oversee Her Majesty's Government's participation in the Anglo-Irish Joint Studies commissioned by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on 8th December 1980."

**DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN QUESTIONS**

(Authority: OD (E) (79) 1)

Composition

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chairman).

Chancellor of the Exchequer.

~~Lord President of the Council.~~

Lord Privy Seal.

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Secretary of State for Trade.

Attorney General.

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of reference

“To consider questions relating to the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Community.”

**DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON HOME DEFENCE**

(Authority: OD (HD) (80) 1, OD (HD) (81) 1)

Composition

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chairman).

~~Lord President of the Council.~~

Secretary of State for Defence.

Secretary of State for Scotland.

Chief Secretary, Treasury.

Minister of State, Home Office (Mr. Mayhew).

← *Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster*

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of Reference

"To consider questions of home defence policy and planning and to report to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee."

**DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM**

(Authority: OD (T) (79) 1)

Composition

Prime Minister.
Secretary of State for the Home Department.
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.
Secretary of State for Defence.
Secretary of State for Scotland.
Secretary of State for Trade.
Secretary of State for Energy.
Attorney General.

Terms of reference

“To keep under review the arrangements for dealing with terrorist incidents.”

Ref: A05521

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister.

Agree :-

- ✓ (i) the terms of reference;
- ✓ (ii) the proposed membership, with the addition of Mr Jenkins as shown here;
- (iii) the attendance of officials as proposed in paragraph 6?

MR. WHITMORE

See para 6,

Nationalised Industries: Cabinet Committee

JW
16ix

When Ministers discussed the CPRS report on nationalised industries on 4th August, they agreed that there should be a new Committee to consider issues of nationalised industry policy, which the Prime Minister would chair, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer deputising for her as appropriate; and that the Ministerial Committee should be supported by a small review staff in the CPRS.

2. This minute makes proposals for establishing the new Committee.

3. I propose that the new Committee should be formally a sub-committee of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy, but without any formal obligation to report to the main Committee.

4. For terms of reference I propose:

"To keep under review the Government's general policy towards the nationalised industries and major publicly-owned companies, to consider the objectives and monitor the performance of each of them, and to deal as necessary with specific major issues affecting them."

5. For composition I propose:

- Prime Minister
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for the Environment
- Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Trade
- Secretary of State for Transport
- Chief Secretary, Treasury
- Secretary of State for Energy
- Secretary of State for Employment

Secretary of State for Industry

The Secretariat will be provided by the Cabinet Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

6. I propose that the head of the CPRS and the head of the new nationalised industry review staff in the CPRS should attend meetings of the new committee. It is for consideration whether, when the affairs of a particular nationalised industry are to be discussed, the Secretary of State concerned should be free to be accompanied, if he wishes, by the head of the Departmental unit which deals with that industry. *Unusual.*

7. The Sub-committee on Nationalised Industry Financing (E(NF)) will be superseded by the new committee, and so will the Ministerial Group on Rolls Royce (MISC 22); but the Sub-Committees of E on Disposals (E(DL)) and Procurement Policy (E(PU)) will need to be retained.

8. It may prove to be convenient to set up an Official Committee, under Cabinet Office or CPRS chairmanship, to support the new Ministerial Committee; but I think that we should wait and see if that seems likely to be useful. I therefore make no proposal on this now.

REA

Robert Armstrong

15th September 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05515 of 14 September about the recomposition of the 5 main Cabinet Committees following yesterday's Cabinet changes.

The Prime Minister has approved the changes in the membership of E which you recommended, together with the addition of the Paymaster General.

The Prime Minister would also like Mr. Parkinson to be a member of H.

I have told him that he is to be a member of both E and H. I have also told Mr. Buckley that Lady Young will not be a member of E.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposed membership of L and QL.

As regards OD, she agrees that Mr. Pym should remain a member and that we do not put on Lady Young. She would like Mr. Prior to be treated in exactly the same way as Mr. Pym is for E.

A. WHITMORE

15 September, 1981.

CONFIDENTIAL

*M. Pym res but
see average
not.*

Prime Minister.

Agree these proposals?

*Do you want Mr Pym
to be a member of OD? Definitely*

Ref. A05515

MR. WHITMORE

I attach proposals for the recomposition of the five main Cabinet Committees, in the light of today's Cabinet changes.

2. So far as the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (E) is concerned, I assume that the Prime Minister will want Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Prior to remain members of it in their new posts. Mr. Jenkin, as Secretary of State for Industry, needs to be added, I assume that, as Lord President, Mr. Pym should continue to be invited to come as necessary, and free to attend if he sees fit, but should not be added to the membership of the Committee. I doubt whether it is necessary to add Lady Young to the membership. On this basis we end up with a Committee of 14, one more than at present.

*✓
as does
Mr Telford,
as Secretary
of State
for
Employment.*

*✓
Averell
MS*

*not to; and in any case probably
desirable not to include
in view of
some of his
remarks
today.
HLL
HDC*

3. As to the Ministerial Committee on Home and Social Affairs (H), I think that the membership can remain as at present in terms of Departments represented; all that is needed is some revision of the order.

4. As to the Legislation Committee (L) I assume that Mr. Pym should continue as Chairman, and Lady Young should come on as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Otherwise the composition can remain unchanged.

5. As to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OD), I assume that Mr. Pym stays on as Lord President and that we do not put on Lady Young as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Otherwise the composition can remain unchanged. The Prime Minister may, however, wish to consider whether the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland should be added to the Committee. It is this Committee which deals with Northern Ireland affairs. Mr. Atkins was not on the Committee, though of course he was always invited when Northern Ireland affairs were considered.

*✓
I doubt it -
he needs spend
quite a lot
of time in
Northern Ireland.*

6. As to the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) I assume that Mr. Pym will remain a member as Lord President, and Lady Young will come on as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.



I think he should come to the Economic Committee Home Social Affairs

- 7. I have not included the Paymaster General on any of these Committees.
- 8. I will bring forward proposals for the recomposition of other Ministerial Cabinet Committees tomorrow. I attach the proposed revised composition of the five dealt with in this minute.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

14th September, 1981



CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY

E Prime Minister
Home Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Defence
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Industry
Secretary of State for Trade
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Secretary of State for Energy
Secretary of State for Employment



CONFIDENTIAL

HOME AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- H Home Secretary (Chairman)
- Lord Chancellor
- Secretary of State for Education and Science
- Lord President
- Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Secretary of State for the Environment
- Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Wales
- Secretary of State for Transport
- Secretary of State for Social Services
- Chief Secretary, Treasury
- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Secretary of State for Employment
- Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
- Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms



CONFIDENTIAL

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

- L Lord President (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Lord Privy Seal
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Attorney General
Lord Advocate
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Financial Secretary, Treasury
Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms



CONFIDENTIAL

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

OD Prime Minister
Home Secretary
Lord Chancellor
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Lord President
Secretary of State for Defence
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Trade



CONFIDENTIAL

QUEEN'S SPEECHES AND FUTURE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QL Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Lord President
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Attorney General
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms

PERSONAL

file

RK

Cabinet

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

On reading your minute A04207 of 6 February 1981 recording the 37 per cent drop in the number of meetings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees held in 1980 compared with 1978, the Prime Minister commented "Thank you - I am pleased".

C A WHITMORE

9 February 1981

CS

PERSONAL

Prime Minister.

A revealing comparison.

RAH

6 Feb 81

Ref. A04207

PRIME MINISTER

We have been keeping a count on meetings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees (ministerial and official) in 1980, the first complete calendar year of your administration, to see how it compares with the comparable number for the previous administration in 1978, its last complete calendar year.

2. The number of meetings is down by 37 per cent (about 38 per cent for ministerial meetings, 36 per cent for official meetings) for 1980 as compared with 1978.

3. This difference is large enough to be statistically significant. I suppose that it could be variously interpreted. !!

4. I recommend against any public use of these figures; but I thought you might like to know.

Thank you - I am pleased

RAH

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 February 1981



John Marshall

A meeting...

WJL

10/22

Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a letter or report, with some words like "meeting" and "department" visible.

-6 FEB 1981

11 12 1
2
3
4
5 6

CONFIDENTIAL

JS

BF 20/1/81
wrb

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

MISC 7 - MEMBERSHIP

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A04006 of 16 January 1981 and she agrees that Mr. Pym should be invited to remain a member of MISC 7.

|| If you are content, I will put this to him in the next day or so.

CW

Spoke to Lynn who
has agreed to join MISC 7.
Tell Sir Robert Armstrong.

19 January 1981

RM

21.9

Ⓢ

Perhaps we can consider this when a meeting arises

Prime Minister.

Ref. A04006

MR WHITMORE

MISC 7 - Membership

This is a good idea, but Mr Pym may be reluctant to be a member of yet another Committee. On the other hand, MISC 7 meets only rarely and should not impose a heavy burden on him. Sub 16i.

In my minute to you of 6 January about the implication of the Government changes for the membership of Cabinet Committees, I concluded by saying that apart from the Committees specifically mentioned in my minute, changes in the membership of other Committees would follow from changes in Departmental responsibilities.

2. On this principle Mr Nott will replace Mr Pym as a member of the Ministerial Group on Nuclear Defence Policy (MISC 7). I think it is for consideration whether Mr Pym might be invited to continue as a member of this Committee, as well as Mr Nott. The knowledge which he has already acquired on nuclear defence policy, coupled with the close relationship with the House of Commons which stems from his new post, are arguments in favour of this course of action. Mr Pym will not have the support of any staff in this field, and we should have to make arrangements like those we have made for Mr Whitelaw for the protection of papers and the provision of briefing.

3. I know that Mr Pym will have other heavy preoccupations, and it has always been considered desirable to keep this Committee as small as possible. Nevertheless the Prime Minister may like to consider inviting Mr Pym to remain a member of it.

RAH

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

16 January 1981

Spoke to the Prime Minister about the committee above. I would like to see a meeting of MISC 7 was planned for 3rd February. He would prefer to see Mr Pym and he wishes to remain a member of the Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

GOVERNMENT CHANGES: CABINET COMMITTEES

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A03909 of 6 January 1981 about the implications for the membership of Cabinet Committees of the Ministerial changes announced on Monday of this week.

She has approved the proposals made in your minute and in particular the suggestion that the Attorney General should become a member of the Committee on the House of Lords.

She is content for Mr. Pym to be invited to become a member of the Sub-Committee of E on Public Service Pay, though she doubts whether he will be too keen to do so.

The Prime Minister does not want the Chief Secretary to be added to OD.

JAW.

8 January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

010

1,

Prime Minister

Ref: A03909

CONFIDENTIAL

Agree these proposals - and in particular that the Attorney General should become a member of the Ministers Committee on the House of Lords?

Yes

No

Would you like Mr Brittan to become a member of OD? He would, I am sure, make a valuable contribution to the Committee's discussions. On the other hand, it would bring the size of OD up to 11 (it is now 9). JMB 7.1.89.

MR. WHITMORE

Government Changes: Cabinet Committees

You told me that the Prime Minister had already made some decisions about the implications of the Government changes for the membership of Cabinet Committees. This minute confirms these points, and seeks approval for other changes.

Defence and Oversea Policy Committee

2. Mr. Pym remains a member; Mr. Nott stays on the Committee as Secretary of State for Defence. I suggest that Mr. Biffen should come on to the Committee as Secretary of State for Trade. That would bring the numbers up to 10. Some months ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested that the Chief Secretary, Treasury, should be added as a member in his own right; at that time the Prime Minister decided against the suggestion, but she may like to reconsider it now.

Against

Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy

3. Mr. Nott remains a member; I suggest that Mr. Biffen should continue on the Committee in his new capacity, and Mr. Brittan be added in his. That brings the numbers up to 13.

Agreed

4. Mr. Pym is not to come on to the main Committee. But as Paymaster General Sir Angus Maude was on the new Sub-Committee on Public Service Pay; as Mr. Pym takes over Sir Angus Maude's responsibilities for public presentation of Government policy, he should presumably take his place on this Sub-Committee.

Doubt whether he will wish to.

Legislation Committee

✓ 5. Mr. Pym will take over the Chairmanship of the Committee; Lord Hailsham remains a member.

Committee on the House of Lords

6. Mr. Pym was appointed to this Committee ad hominem rather than as Secretary of State for Defence. He should no doubt remain on the Committee as Chancellor of the Duchy and Paymaster General. But Mr. Stevas's departure



CONFIDENTIAL

will leave the Committee one short of members of the House of Commons, and the balance of four members of the House of Lords and four of the House of Commons will be thrown out unless another Minister in the House of Commons is appointed in his place. I think that the balance should be maintained. The Prime Minister may like to consider inviting the Attorney General to serve. He has in fact made representations to me that the terms of reference include consideration of measures which will involve legal and constitutional issues on which his advice will be needed; and, given his sensitivity vis-a-vis the Lord Chancellor (who is a member of the Committee) it would, I think, be worthwhile to take advantage of this opportunity to add him to the membership of the Committee.

Other Committees

7. Changes in membership will follow from changes in Departmental responsibilities.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

6th January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Chamberlain

MS



Subject filed in
Trade: Non Tariff
Barriers: Apr 1980.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Prime Minister's Committee on Exports

I have shown your minute A02549 of 7 July to the Prime Minister.

She agrees with your proposals for the composition and terms of reference of the new Ministerial Committee on Exports. She would also be grateful if, when the Group is set up, you would arrange for the Secretary of State for Trade to submit a paper for the first meeting to consider.

C. A. WHITMORE

8 July 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

MS

Coby

Trade

Subjects filed on Trade:
New Tariff Barriers:
APL 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A02549

MR. WHITMORE

Prime Minister's Committee on Exports

When E discussed on 25th June the memorandum by the Secretary of State for Trade on Britain's International Trade Policies (E(80) 43) the Prime Minister said that she would set up a small Ministerial Group under her chairmanship, with representatives of the Departments most closely concerned, to consider current export problems and also whether any general lessons might be drawn from experience in handling particular cases.

2. I attach a draft note showing possible membership and terms of reference of this group. I suggest that, once this group is set up, the Secretary of State for Trade should be invited to submit a paper putting forward some particular cases for consideration at the first meeting.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

(Robert Armstrong)

7th July, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON EXPORTS

COMPOSITION:

Prime Minister

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Industry

Secretary of State for Trade

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

To ensure that major cases involving Government support of exports are dealt with quickly and efficiently and to keep under review the arrangements for promoting the United Kingdom's international trade objectives.

SECRETARIAT:

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr P Le Cheminant

Mr D J L Moore

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Cabinet:
(Committee structure)



Copy
Subject filed on: Govt
Mach: Promotion of efficiency
and elimination of waste: PT 6.
10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M 10/80.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE

Thank you for your minute of 12 March about waste in Government.

I propose to hold a special meeting of the Cabinet on 25 April to discuss questions of efficiency and manpower policy in the Civil Service. Your minute raises a number of points which we should consider at that meeting, and I am sending copies of it, with copies of this minute, to all Cabinet colleagues.

On Cabinet Committees I agree that we must make the system work for us and not let it take us over. In principle I am in favour of keeping down the numbers both of Committees and of Committee meetings. I am told that in both respects we still compare well with previous Governments. But do not let us lose sight of what the system can do for us. Apart from the advantages you mention - the crystallisation of issues and the proper recording of decisions - it is one way of enabling senior Ministers to exercise a political influence on decisions going beyond their departmental interests; and it helps us to know, and so to be able to defend, what each other is proposing and doing. The system provides a convenient framework for that, and for enabling us to deal with issues in an orderly way and at the right time.

The fact that something has been discussed in a Cabinet Committee should not mean that every subsequent development must be reported back in correspondence copied to all members of the Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL

/There are times

There are times when an exchange of correspondence is a less wasteful way of exchanging information or agreeing decisions than a meeting would be. But the ease with which documents can be copied makes people thoughtless about proliferation of them, which is not only wasteful but bad for security. The only way of disciplining prodigality is for those whose duty it is to decide to whom documents are to be copied to confine them always and strictly to those with a positive need to know. Ministers and their Private Offices should set an example on this.

As to sponsorship, each industry has a primary relationship with Government in one particular Department. That does not mean that that Department needs to monitor all that industry's relations with Government. I agree with you that there are considerable savings to be won by cutting out departmental activities which consist simply of monitoring what other Departments are doing. I am glad that Paul Channon is going to put proposals to us on this.

As to delegated authorities, the problem is to make Ministers and their Departments cost-conscious. You mentioned the CSD control over purchase of vehicles for the Coastguards. I am told that, left to itself, the Department would have spent a great deal more than they needed to spend. I should like to see the central departments concentrate more on broad control of expenditure, setting general rules and standards and leaving detail to spending departments; but we shall have to find some way of making Ministers and their departments more cost and resource conscious than they seem to be. We need to look at the whole problem of control of expenditure. We must discuss this, amongst other things, on 25 April.

On public appointments, I should like to continue to be consulted in advance about the appointment of all chairmen of nationalised industries and public appointments, and about all appointments of members which have political significance or implications. I am content not to be consulted about appointments of Deputy Chairmen, except those which have political implications, but in deciding whether or not to consult me I would like colleagues to bear in mind that a Deputy Chairman can often be asked to stand in for, or even take over from, a Chairman.

On attendance at Cabinet, I am prepared to waive the requirement of a personal minute seeking permission to be absent from a Cabinet meeting, where the absence is accounted for by an overseas visit which I have approved, on the understanding that the request for approval for the visit is copied to the Secretary of the Cabinet, who needs to know who is away when.

I am content not to be consulted about overseas visits by Ministers other than Cabinet Ministers, provided that such visits are approved by the Ministerial head of the department concerned, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chief Whip. I gather that at least one Department has introduced a cash limit on travel by Ministers; that is an example that others could well follow, to keep this expenditure in bounds. This change of procedure does not affect the requirement for my approval to be sought for official visits overseas by Ministers' spouses and by Parliamentary Private Secretaries (see paragraphs 54 and 55 of Questions of Procedure for Ministers (C(P)(79)1)).

I am sending a copy of this minute to the Secretary of the Cabinet, who will arrange for "Questions of Procedure for Ministers" to be revised to take account of paragraphs 7, 8 and 9.

Margaret Thatcher

10 April 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

E(DL)(80) 1

COPY NO

February 1980

CABINET

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC SECTOR ASSETS

REVISED COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet

By direction of the Prime Minister the composition and terms of reference of the Sub-Committee have been revised.

COMPOSITION

The Composition is now:-

Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman)
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Trade
Secretary of State for Energy
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Financial Secretary, Treasury

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as appropriate

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

These are now:-

"To consider and keep under review all arrangements for the disposal of public sector assets including land and buildings, and for the introduction of private capital into the nationalised industries, and to report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy."

SECRETARIAT

The Secretaries are Mr P Mountfield, Mr G D Miles and Mr A S D Whybrow,
Cabinet Office.

Signed ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Cabinet Office

February 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

E(NI)(80) 1

COPY NO

February 1980

CABINET

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONALISED INDUSTRY FINANCING

COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet

By direction of the Prime Minister a Sub-Committee has been constituted with the following composition and terms of reference:-

COMPOSITION

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chairman)
Secretary of State for Industry
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Trade
Secretary of State for Energy
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Minister of Transport

TERMS OF REFERENCE

"To consider the financial requirements of the nationalised industries and the means of financing them; and to report to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy from time to time."

SECRETARIAT

The Secretaries are Mr P le Cheminant, Mr P Mountfield and Mr G D Miles,
Cabinet Office

Signed ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Cabinet Office

February 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

ms

Original filed on Nationalised Industries Pt 2. Policy Control: -

CONFIDENTIAL

FIVE

D.S.
Nationalised
Industries.

Cabinet

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES: FINANCIAL CONTROL

The Prime Minister has read your note of 22 February and has agreed the proposed terms of reference and composition for the new sub-committees to be chaired by the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Industry.

I. P. LANCASTER

25 February 1980

KR17

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

original copy filed on Policy Towards Nationalised

Agree ?

Industries Pt 2.

Ref. A01500

MR. LANKESTER

R

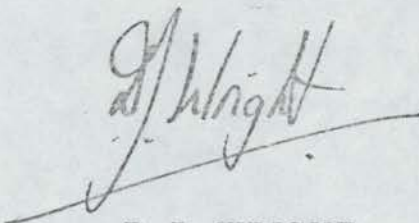
272

Nationalised Industries: Financial Control

In your minute of 14th February, you reported the Prime Minister's agreement to proposals that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should chair a new Committee to discuss Nationalised Industry Financing Questions and that the terms of reference of the E(DL) Committee on the Disposal of Public Assets, now under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Industry, should be extended to cover "Privatisation". You asked for proposed terms of reference and membership for these two Committees.

2. I enclose terms of reference and composition for the new Sub-Committees to be chaired by the Chancellor, and revised terms of reference for the Sub-Committee on Disposals, now to be chaired by the Secretary of State for Industry. These have been seen and approved by the Secretary of the Cabinet. If they are acceptable to the Prime Minister, they will be circulated.

Agreed and



D. J. WRIGHT

22nd February, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

K. R. Stowe, Esq., CB



✓
MAP

CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
The Private Secretary to the
Secretary of the Cabinet

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS

Telephone 01-233 8319

Cabinet



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir John Hunt GCB

Ref: A09702

5th June, 1979

Membership of Cabinet Committees

Thank you for your letter of 30th May. I can confirm your understanding of the position with regard to the Paymaster General's membership of, and access to the documents of, Ministerial Committees.

I am copying this letter to Ken Stowe.

M. J. VILE

(M. J. Vile)
Private Secretary

R. E. S. Prescott, Esq.

1-6 1979

11 12 1 2 3
10 11 12 1 2 3
9 10 11 12 1 2 3
8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3



CONFIDENTIAL

HS

Cabinet

MR. VILE
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has seen Richard Prescott's letter to you of 30 May, about membership of Cabinet Committees.

She has confirmed that she agreed that Mr. Maude could attend meetings of E, H and L Committees as an observer if there was an item on the agenda which he thought had important presentational aspects.

M.A. PATTISON

1 June 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

[Handwritten signature]



1.

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Mr. Maude records below ^{as an observer}
your agreement to his attending
meetings of E, H and L Committees
where there is an item which
might have presentational aspects.

Can you confirm that this
is what you agreed at your
meeting with him? (If not, I
think that David Wolfson would
like to have a word with you
about this, as he has been
discussing various matters with
Mr. Maude, and he sees this as
part of a package of arrangements
for Mr. Maude's working procedure.)

Yes pls

MAD

31 May 1979



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

30 May 1979

From THE PAYMASTER GENERAL

Martin Vile Esq
Private Secretary to
Sir John Hunt GCB
Cabinet Office

Dear Martin

MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the Paymaster General's membership of, and access to the documents of, Ministerial Committees. As I am sure you know by now, the Paymaster General saw the Prime Minister on 22 May and amongst other things the membership of Cabinet committees was raised. The Minister has informed me that the Prime Minister agreed that he could attend meetings of 'E', 'H' and 'L' Committees if there was an item on the agenda which was felt to have important presentational aspects.

The purpose of this minute is to record this fact and to suggest that as and when the need arises I make arrangements with the Secretary of the appropriate committee for Mr Maude to attend.

✓ I am copying this letter to Ken Stowe.

*Yours ever
Richard*

R E S PRESCOTT
Private Secretary

*Mr. Maude attends as
an observer - notes
a member. and.*

50 MAY 1979

1979
MAY
50



na
MAD
24 ✓

CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
The Private Secretary to the
Secretary of the Cabinet

K. R. Stowe, Esq., CB

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone 01-233 3000



Cabinet

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir John Hunt GCB

Ref. A09590

18th May, 1979

Membership of Cabinet Committees

I am sorry not to have replied earlier to your letter of 10th May conveying the Paymaster General's wishes in respect of membership of and access to the documents of Ministerial Committees. We have of course consulted the Prime Minister about this. She has now said that she does not wish to make any additions to the membership of E, E(EA), H or L Committees. The Prime Minister is however content for the Paymaster General to receive copies of all Cabinet Ministerial Committee papers, and I have arranged for this to be put into effect.

I am copying this letter to Ken Stowe.

M. J. VILE

(M.J. Vile)

R. E. S. Prescott, Esq.

19 MAY 1979

10 11 12 1
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



FILE

Cabinet DS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MARTIN VILE
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has seen Sir John Hunt's minute of 14 May, about the Paymaster General's interest in following the work of a number of Cabinet Committees.

The Prime Minister is content that all Cabinet Committee agendas, papers, and minutes, should go to the Paymaster General, but she does not wish to make any additions to the membership of these Committees.

M. A. PATTISON

16 May 1979

ABO

1. Mr. Wolfson
You may wish to comment
2. Prime Minister.

K.R.S.
14/5

MR. STOWE

The Paymaster General, as the Minister responsible for co-ordination of Government information, has asked if he can:-

- (i) become a full member of the following Ministerial Committees -
 - Economic Strategy (E)
 - Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (E(EA))
 - Home and Social Affairs (H)
 - Legislation (L)
- (ii) be free to attend all other Cabinet Committees, in an advisory capacity, if there are items on the agenda which interest him;
- (iii) receive a copy of all Cabinet Committee papers so that he could proceed as at (ii) above.

2. The Paymaster General, though a member of the Cabinet, is not at present on any Cabinet Committees. If the Prime Minister wants him to play a part in committee work I think he could well be added to E(EA), H and L. I am however less sure about E itself. This is very much a strategy Committee and the Prime Minister has deliberately kept it small. If Mr. Maude is added there may well be Ministers who will feel that they have much better claims to membership.

3. As regards his wish to see all Cabinet Committee papers and to attend meetings in an advisory capacity at his own wish, I rather doubt whether this is practicable. For example would the Prime Minister want him to be sent all the papers of OD or OD(E)? It seems to me that adding him to E(EA), H and L would go a long way to meet his legitimate interests (and we could consider him for membership of The Queen's Speech Committee next time): but that we should also provide in Questions of Procedure for him to see in advance copies of Parliamentary Statements, White and Green papers etc., so that he could advise on their public presentation.

No - for the reasons advanced
with regard to the papers. But like
John Hunt

John Hunt

14th May 1979

CONFIDENTIAL
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

NBPM

MS

10/5



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Martin Vile Esq
PS/Sir John Hunt
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
SW1

10 May 1979

Dear Martin,

My Secretary of State has asked if you would agree to let him see copies of the papers for the Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (E(EA)). The Secretary of State also hopes that if he identifies a Northern Ireland interest in a subject there will be no trouble about his being invited to be present or to be represented at the meeting at which it is to be discussed.

I am copying this letter to Ken Stowe.

Yours sincerely,

Joe

J G PILLING

DT

CONFIDENTIAL

10 MAY 1979

9 10 11 12 1
8 4 1 2
7 6 3 4 3

10/2

W2

145311



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

10 May 1979

Martin Vile Esq
Private Secretary to Sir John Hunt
Cabinet Office

Dear Martin

1 MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES

The Paymaster General has seen the composition and terms of reference of the following Ministerial Committees:

E: Economic Strategy
E(EA): - do - (Sub Committee on Economic Affairs)
H: Home and Social Affairs
L: Legislation

As the Minister responsible for co-ordination of Government Information the Paymaster General feels that it is essential that he is included in the membership of these four committees. Furthermore, it is going to be necessary, from time to time, for the Minister to be present at other Cabinet Committee meetings to advise on the presentation of Government policy. Mr Maude, therefore, would like authority to attend any Cabinet Committee Meeting that he feels warrants his presence, not as a member, but in an advisory capacity.

2 ACCESS TO CABINET DOCUMENTS

The Paymaster General considers that in order to carry out his responsibilities to the full it is essential also that he has access to all cabinet documents. In the light of experience it may be possible to be more selective but initially, at least, he would like to see them all.

I should be glad if you would confirm that you are content with these arrangements.

I am copying this to Ken Stowe, Richard Ryder and Henry James at Number 10.

Yours ever
R E S

R E S. PRESCOTT
Private Secretary

10 MAY 1979



Cabinet



10 DOWNING STREET

✓ Key Thanks
I think we
can still get the
Chancellor in.
Ker.
Cabinet Chairmanship

This gives you
Home Sec
Sec for Industry
Lord Chancellor
Foreign Sec

J. Hunt proposed Chancellor
for ESCEA, but PM
decided on Sec for Industry.
No deputies are specified,
other than overall role of
Home Sec. Precedence would
not make Chancellor deputy
on ES.

MAD 10/11

Cabinet

PRIME MINISTER

You asked for an aide memoire of the Cabinet Committees you have now appointed with their terms of reference and membership. They are as follows:

Queen's Speech and Future Legislation Committee (QL)

- Home Secretary (Chairman)
- Lord Chancellor
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Lord President
- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Attorney General
- Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

→ Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OPD)

"To keep under review the Government's defence and oversea policy."

- Prime Minister (Chairman)
- Home Secretary (if he wishes)
- Lord Chancellor
- Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
- Chancellor of the Exchequer (if he wishes, but in any case, a Treasury representative)
- Secretary of State for Defence
- Lord President
- Lord Privy Seal
- Secretary of State for Trade

Sub-Committee of OPD on European Questions (OPD(EQ))

- Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (Chairman)
- Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chief Secretary in practice)
- Lord President
- Lord Privy Seal
- Secretary of State for Trade
- Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Attorney General

→ Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (ES)

"To keep under review the broad development of the Government's economic strategy, both internal and external."

- Prime Minister (Chairman)
- Home Secretary
- Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Industry
- Lord President
- Secretary of State for Employment
- Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Secretary of State for Trade
- Secretary of State for Energy
- Chief Secretary, Treasury

Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (ES(EA))

Secretary of State for Industry (Chairman)
Secretary of State for Employment
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Secretary of State for Trade
Secretary of State for Energy
Chief Secretary, Treasury

→ Legislation Committee (L)

"To examine all draft Bills and such statutory instruments as may be referred to it; to consider arrangements for debate in Parliament of proposals for the European Economic Community secondary legislation; to consider arrangements for dealing with Private Members' business; and to keep under review the Government's policy in relation to issues of Parliamentary Procedures."

Lord Chancellor (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House of Commons
Lord Privy Seal
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms
Attorney General
Lord Advocate
Financial Secretary, Treasury

→ Home and Social Affairs (H)

"To keep under review social and other domestic matters which are not within the terms of reference of any other Committee; and to consider proposals for legislation when necessary."

Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Employment
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords (CSD)
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Social Services
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Education
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Minister of Transport
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms

You wish to make the general point that, while it may well be necessary in due course to add one or two to these Committees, or set up some ad hoc Committees, you intend to start on a very tight rein because Ministers can easily be enticed into spending too much time in too many Committees. This Government intends to conduct its affairs in an orderly and purposeful way.

KRS.

8 May 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR JOHN HUNT
CABINET OFFICE

The Prime Minister has considered your minute of 6 May and I have discussed her conclusions on it further in the light of my talk with you. She has now decided as follows.

The Defence and Overseas Policy Committee (OPD) should be set up with the proposed terms of reference and with a membership as you suggest with the addition of the Secretary of State for Trade. The Prime Minister had doubts whether it was right for the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be burdened with membership of this Committee and she would wish it to be conveyed to the Home Secretary that he is only to attend if he so wishes; and she would be content that the Chancellor of the Exchequer be represented by a Treasury Minister rather than attend himself. The Prime Minister agrees that a separate Committee is not necessary for Rhodesia and Southern African questions, nor does she think a separate Committee is necessary for Northern Ireland. As regards European questions she has concluded that the proposed Committee, under your terms of reference, should be a Sub-Committee of OPD augmented as required. On this basis all those Ministers whom you recommend as members of OPD would be members of the Sub-Committee with the exception of the Home Secretary, Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Defence. The Prime Minister would then add to the Sub-Committee, as you suggest, the Minister of Agriculture and the Attorney General, leaving the Secretaries of State for Industry, Employment and Energy to be called in as necessary.

/The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister does not wish to have a separate Committee to deal with Common Fisheries Policy: this should be referred either to OPD itself or to its Sub-Committee dealing with European questions as appropriate.

As regards Economic Committees, the Prime Minister agrees that there should be a Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (ES) under the terms of reference you propose and with your proposed membership, including the Lord President and the Minister of Agriculture. She would prefer not to set up a separate Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs but to have this set up as a Sub-Committee of the main Committee without further terms of reference. The Sub-Committee should be constituted under the Secretary of State for Industry as Chairman and with membership as you propose but without the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, or the Minister of Transport as members.

The Queen's Speech and Future Legislation Committee has already been established. As regards the Legislation Committee, the Prime Minister wishes that this Committee should meet under the Chairmanship of the Lord Chancellor and with the Leader of the House as a member. The other members should be as you propose, with the exception of the Home Secretary.

The Prime Minister agrees the terms of reference and membership of the Committee dealing with Home and Social Affairs (H).

The Prime Minister has emphasised again her desire to keep as tight a rein as possible on Ministerial Committees and upon the amount of time which Ministers devote to them.

K.R.S.

8 May 1979

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

This submission contains recommendations for the main standing Committees of the Cabinet in the light of the appointments which you made yesterday. It would be helpful to have your decision on these fairly soon: but there is urgency over the Ministerial Committee on Europe because a meeting will almost certainly be needed on Wednesday, 9th May to settle our line for the final phase of the Lome II negotiations.

Defence and Overseas Policy Committee (OPD)

I suggest that the terms of reference should be:-

"To keep under review the Government's defence and overseas policy."

and that the composition should be:-

- Prime Minister
- ? Home Secretary? x *if Lewis*
- Lord Chancellor
- Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
- ? Chancellor of the Exchequer? x *Try: yes.*
- Secretary of State for Defence
- Lord President
- Lord Privy Seal
- Sec of State for Trade ✓*

I am not recommending a separate Committee to deal with Rhodesia and Southern African questions. I think it makes more sense (and will mean fewer meetings) if OPD handles these, though when questions relating to trade and sanctions are being discussed it will sometimes be necessary to invite other Ministers e.g. Trade, Energy and the Attorney General.

It is for consideration whether to have a separate Ministerial Committee *No* on Northern Ireland. If you want this, it can easily be arranged. The composition would however be almost identical to OPD and you may think it simpler to let OPD deal also with Irish affairs. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland could be invited whenever they were on the agenda: or alternatively you could make him a full member of the Committee on the understanding that he would not have to attend if he was in Belfast and matters of concern to him were not on the agenda.

*? Industry.
within if
EQ is a
sub-c'tn.*

Finally this can be a sub-committee of

Ministerial Committee on European Questions (EQ)

I suggest that the terms of reference should be:-

"To consider questions relating to the United Kingdom's membership of the European Community."

OPD augmented as requested. The chairmanship would not then conflict with an earlier form.

no x.o.v. scribble.

There is a problem over the chairmanship. Lord Soames has already approached me and made a strong bid for this. I believe that he had also spoken similarly to Lord Carrington. His case is essentially that, while he has no wish to go to Brussels or to get in the hair of FCO Ministers, his European experience would be invaluable in pulling things together in Whitehall. I am less sure about the need for this, which is the task of the European Unit in the Cabinet Office anyway. In my view a better case would rest on having a neutral chairman as between FCO and Treasury Ministers and the availability of Lord Soames for chairing meetings if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is out of the country. On the other hand I think Lord Carrington wants the chairmanship since he does not intend to leave Europe solely to Sir Ian Gilmour: and there must be some risk that if the chairmanship is given to Lord Soames that, despite his saying that he does not want to get involved in negotiations, we would in fact drift back into the 1973-74 situation that neither Lord Home nor Mr. John Davies found very satisfactory. The compromise of giving the chairmanship to Sir Ian Gilmour would not, I think, suit either man. The simplest way of resolving the matter is of course to give the chairmanship to Lord Carrington ^{*} because of his greater seniority in Cabinet order: and if you decide otherwise I think you may need to have a word with him about it.

indeed he does! KRS

If however you agree, the composition could be:-

- Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (Chairman)
- ~~Chancellor of the Exchequer~~ (but with the Chief Secretary free to represent him on less important matters)
- X Secretary of State for Industry - rarely
- Lord President
- X Secretary of State for Employment rarely
- Lord Privy Seal
- Minister of Agriculture
- Secretary of State for Trade
- X Secretary of State for Energy - rarely
- Attorney General

* I understand that Lord Carrington wd. be content for Lord Soames to act as Deputy Chairman should the Chair in his absence. This may be the best solution.

(Other Ministers, in particular the territorial Secretaries of State and the Secretaries of State for the Environment and Transport would need to attend on occasions but I think there would be merit in keeping the nucleus of the Committee as small as possible.)

In addition I think there is a need for a separate group (since rather different Ministers are involved) on Community Fisheries Questions (FQ). I suggest its terms of reference should be:-

"To keep under review policy on the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy and related matters."

and that the composition should be:-

- Lord Privy Seal (Chairman)
- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Wales
- Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Royal Navy

To sub.c'tin
or ad hoc.

No - keep it to
OPD
Assignment
Jo. the relevant
item

Economic Committees

I think you will need a senior "macro" committee under your own chairmanship to chart the Government's strategy and to consider major questions of policy: and also a second-tier and largely "micro" committee to take some of the load off your own and to deal largely with industrial questions.

For the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (ES) I suggest the terms of reference should be:-

"To keep under review the broad development of the Government's economic strategy, both internal and external."

and that the composition should be:-

- Prime Minister (Chairman)
- Home Secretary
- ~~Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary~~ ✓
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Industry
- ? Lord President
- Secretary of State for Employment
- ? Minister of Agriculture (most of his departmental business will go to EQ)
- Secretary of State for Trade
- Secretary of State for Energy
- Chief Secretary, Treasury

Energy
Oil.

?
L.P.S.
?
?
?

(Other Ministers, e.g. Environment, Scotland and Wales would, of course have to be invited on occasion).

A sub-committee of the main committee

For the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs (EA) the choice of chairmanship lies between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Industry and possibly the Lord President. I would favour giving it to the Chancellor initially: but he will be carrying a very heavy burden and, depending on how pay matters go, there may be a case later for abolishing the Committee and setting up two separate ones - one under the Chancellor on pay questions and one under the Secretary of State for Industry on industrial questions. If however you agree to the idea of a combined committee under the Chancellor initially, its terms of reference could be:-

"To consider questions arising in the field of economic affairs."

and the composition could be:-

- ~~Chancellor of the Exchequer~~ (Chairman)
- Secretary of State for Industry
- Secretary of State for Employment
- ~~Lord Privy Seal~~
- Secretary of State for the Environment
- Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Wales
- ~~Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster~~
- Secretary of State for Trade
- Secretary of State for Energy
- Chief Secretary, Treasury
- ~~Minister of Transport~~

No terms of reference required if sub-committee of main committee

Queen's Speech and Future Legislation Committee (QL)

You have already approved the composition of this viz:-

- Home Secretary (Chairman)
- Lord Chancellor
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Lord President
- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Attorney General
- Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Legislation Committee (L)

I suggest that the terms of reference should be:-

"To examine all draft Bills and such statutory instruments as may be referred to it; to consider arrangements for debate in Parliament of proposals for the European Economic

Community secondary legislation; to consider arrangements for dealing with Private Members' business; and to keep under review the Government's policy in relation to issues of Parliamentary Procedures."

and that the composition should be:-

~~Chancellor of the Duchy and Leader of the House of Commons~~
(Chairman) - *Leader of House but not as chairman.*
? Home Secretary
Lord Chancellor - *Chairman*
✓ ~~Lord Privy Seal~~ *Someone for Employment, Patrick Mayhew?*
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms
Attorney General
Lord Advocate
Financial Secretary, Treasury

Home and Social Affairs (H)

I suggest the terms of reference should be:-

"To keep under review social and other domestic matters which are not within the terms of reference of any other Committee; and to consider proposals for legislation when necessary."

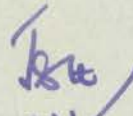
and that the composition should be:-

Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Employment
Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords (CSD)
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Social Services
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Education
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Minister of Transport
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms

*Not functional -
they come for
their Bills.*

CONCLUSION

If you agree to the above recommendations, these Committees would constitute the main standing committees of the Cabinet (and you will note what I have suggested in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft of "Questions of Procedure for Ministers" about the question of appeals from them). There will be a need for a handful of less important committees (e.g. Science and Technology, Security, Terrorism and Statistical Policy) and I will let you have recommendations for these shortly.


John Hunt

6th May 1979

Please keep the committees
down at the start. They have
a tendency to grow anyway so we
will start with only a few - the
various committees through time.
arb

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Extract from: —

CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AND THE LORD PRIVY SEAL IN 10 DOWNING STREET
ON 8 MAY 1979 AT 1230

European Committee

The Prime Minister said that she wished to get rid of the existing Cabinet Committee on European affairs, bringing European business instead to a sub-committee of OPD. She was in general opposed to the proliferation of Cabinet Committees. It was agreed that Lord Carrington should chair the OPD sub-committee.

