

000
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Wolfson

Prime Minister ²

cc for information ^{You may like to glance at-}
Mr Colman ^{the attached}
Mr D J Wright ^{note of Derek Rayner's conversations in the Australian system.}

Mr PATTISON

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET, AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. I attach a note on the relevant parts of separate conversations between Sir Derek Rayner and the Chairman of the Australian Public Service Board and Mr Ray Whitney, MP, last Thursday. ^{MP 3/x}

2. I also attach a cutting on PM&C, taken from the Australian Commonwealth Directory and supplied by the PSB Representative in London.

3. I have to report that Sir DR was not impressed by Mr Whitney's observations on the efficacy of PM&C, which appeared to be based on little more than a reading of the Commonwealth Directory. The impressions he got from the Chairman of the PSB (although these may be a little partial) and from a former RAF acquaintance who had just retired from the PM&C seem more reliable. Their burden is that although PM&C has some useful functions, it is over-large and causes both duplication of work and resentment among those who are second-guessed.

4. I should say, too, that we had/certain difficulty with Mr Whitney over his appointment with Sir DR. The pressures of the diary indicated a meeting some weeks off. Mr Whitney complained to Miss Holmes here that Sir Derek Rayner could not "reform the Civil Service if he is out of the country for two weeks at a time". This did not go down well with Sir DR. He arranged to see Mr Whitney at once and devoted the first few minutes to the interview (privately) to an attempt to put him straight on how he spends his time.

CP
C PRIESTLEY
1 October 1980

Encs: Note for the File 29 September
Extract from Australian Commonwealth Directory