



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 November 1982

Dear Anthony,

Thank you for your letter of 24 November about the appointment of Sir Anthony Parsons. As you know, Sir Anthony is not due to take up his appointment until the New Year. It has not been the practice for No. 10 advisers to appear before departmental Select Committees and, in view of this, I do not think it appropriate that he should appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee to give evidence about his duties.

However, I appreciate that it would be helpful to the Foreign Affairs Committee to have an explanation of his role and I am therefore enclosing a note which you may wish to circulate to members of the Committee. I emphasise that Sir Anthony's appointment does not change in any way the existing arrangement that the Foreign Affairs Committee look to Foreign and Commonwealth Office for information on matters within their order of reference.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Anthony Kershaw, M.C., M.P.

SW

3 CALPO  
CO  
PRESS

## APPOINTMENT OF SIR ANTHONY PARSONS

Sir Anthony Parsons's appointment is as an adviser to the Prime Minister on foreign affairs. He will be a member of the staff of 10 Downing Street, assisting the Prime Minister in her work on foreign affairs and working in close co-operation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and with other Departments with an interest in those issues. His appointment is designed to facilitate and reinforce the continuous contact between 10 Downing Street and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the formulation and furtherance of foreign policy.

Sir Anthony Parsons's function will be advisory, like that of other special advisers in 10 Downing Street and elsewhere. His role will be to assist the Prime Minister by identifying policy issues requiring or likely to require her attention, advising her on them and contributing to the formulation of Government policy. The appointment involves no change in existing departmental functions or Ministerial responsibilities.

10 Downing Street