



MRS THATCHER

The Secretary to the Cabinet

I expect you may have been considering this matter already with colleagues and others. If so, forgive me for drawing to your attention something which may have been dealt with.

Sir John Hunt is officially giving up his post on or about October 19th. The following seem to be the favourites to succeed him:-

Palliser (FCO)

Cooper (Defence)

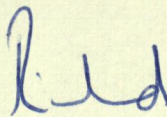
Armstrong (Home Office)

and an outsider:

Cubbon (Northern Ireland)

If the Prime Minister delays an Election until October you may receive the inevitable letter from Downing Street during the Spring or Summer asking whether you accept the appointment of 'X', or merely informing you that 'X' will be appointed. If the nominee is not to your liking what do you do? Nothing could be worse than to start your Premiership with a Secretary to the Cabinet not of your choosing.

In case this question has not been considered in your talks with Sir Anthony Part or Lord Rothschild I thought I would let you know of the possible dilemma. One which would of course have been avoided had the Election taken place last October.


Richard

30 January