



JB
National Health

~~B/F 20.3.80~~

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 March 1980

I mentioned to you on the phone this morning that the Prime Minister has some doubts about the new Advisory Group on the future of health services and medical education in London, foreshadowed in "Patients First". This was the subject of Don Brereton's letter to me of 12 March.

The Prime Minister has asked why this new "Quango" is necessary, and whether further advice is required. She would hope that there is already sufficient knowledge and expert advice on these matters available to the Government. She would certainly wish to see a statement of the full costs likely to be incurred in setting up and operating the Group before she agrees that it should go ahead.

Given that the setting up of the Group has already been forecast in "Patients First", I realise that you will want to settle the matter one way or another very quickly. It would be helpful if you could let me have figures which I have requested above in the course of this week.

I am sending copies of this letter to Geoffrey Green (Civil Service Department) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

M. A. PATTISON

Bernie Merkel, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security.

JB

A



PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Sir J Habakkuk is proposed
to chair an Advisory Group on
Health Services and
Medical Education
in London - as
proposed in 'Patients First'
Agree?

12. March 1980

MA 13/3

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Mike,

It was envisaged in "Patients First" that an Advisory Group should be established to help the Government reach decisions concerning the future of health services and medical education in London. Following consultations with the Public Appointments Unit of the Civil Service Department and the Office of the Chief Whip on a suitable Chairman for this Group, my Secretary of State has considered that Sir John Habakkuk, the former Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, is the best candidate for this post: I enclose a brief CV. Preliminary soundings indicate that Sir John would be able and willing to undertake the task.

I should be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister is content for the Secretary of State to invite Sir John Habakkuk formally to be the Chairman of this important Group.

I am copying this letter to Geoffrey Green in the Civil Service Department and Murdo MacLean in the Chief Whip's Office.

Why another
Quango. Why do
we need
this. Surely we
know ourselves.
Quango? is full?
out.

Yours ever
D

D BRERETON
Private Secretary

Enc.



Annex to
Mr Baereton's
letter of 12/3.

*With the Compliments of
the Private Secretary to
the Secretary of State*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
London, SE1 6BY

HABAKKUK, Sir John (Hrothgar), Kt 1926, FBA 1965
Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, since 1972, a Post-Vice
Chancellor, University of Oxford, since 1977; President
University College, Swansea, since 1975, to 13 May 1977; also
Evan Guest and Anne Habakkuk, m 1948, Mary Richards (nee
Hrothgar), m 1951, three children; three of John: Barry County Sch., St John's Coll., Cambridge
(Scholar and Strachey student), Hon. Fellow 1971. Hist. Soc.
Tropos, Part I, First Class, 1935, Part II, First Class (with
distinction), 1936. Fellow, Pembroke Coll., Cambridge, 1935-6.
Hon. Fellow, 1971. Director of Studies in History and Literature,
1946-50. Temporary Civil Servant, Foreign Office, 1942-47.
Board of Trade, 1942-46. University Lecturer in Faculty of
Economics, Cambridge, 1946-50. Chichele Prof. of Economic
History, Oxford, and Fellow of All Souls Coll., 1950-67. Vice-
Chancellor, Oxford Univ., 1973-77. Visiting Lecturer, Harvard
University, 1974-55. Ford Research Professor, University of
California, Berkeley, 1972-63. Member, Group Chief of
Departmental Records, 1952-54. Advisory Council on Public
Records, 1958-70. SSRC, 1957-71. Nat. Librarians' Council, 1957-
69. Royal Comm. on Historic Manuscripts, 1973. Admir. Bd.
Internat. Assoc. of Univs, 1975. Chm. Ctee. of V.
Chancellors and Principals of Univs of UK, 1973-77. Pres.
RHistS, 1976. Foreign Member Amer. Phil. Soc., Amer. Acad.
of Arts and Sciences, Hon. D.Litt. Wales, 1976. Cambridge
1973, Pennsylvania, 1975, Rome, 1978. Publications: *America
and British Technology in the Nineteenth Century*, 1957.
Population Growth and Economic Development since 1700,
1971; articles and reviews. Address: The Lodgings, Jesus
College, Oxford. T: Oxford 48140. Club: United Oxford &
Cambridge University.