



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

PRIVATE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Reorganisation of the Government

1. Minister of Agriculture

The only reason I suggested Balniel's name on Sunday was because you did not favour any other name I put forward, and I could think of no-one else! Godber's experience makes him an obvious candidate. He is known and respected by the farming community. His temporary unpopularity stemmed from the fact that he was selling a new policy, unpalatable to farmers at first but accepted now. Jim Prior's success owes much to Godber's work, and many farmers realise this. In my opinion he would be more acceptable to them than someone they do not know.

It helps the reorganisation if Godber is moved from his present post. He was unlucky not to be in the Cabinet after the Election, and is at least as appropriate for promotion as Balniel. Moreover, the Party would approve the appointment.

2. On this basis one possible arrangement would be -

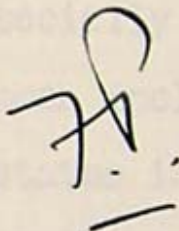
Minister of Agriculture	Godber
Minister for Trade (Cabinet)	Howe (or Thatcher)
Solicitor General	Havers
Minister of State, F.C.O.	Amery
Minister of Housing & Construction	Channon
Ministers of State, N.I.	van Straubenzee Howell
U/S of State, N.I.	Buck or Morrison
U/S of State, D.E.S.	Scott
U/S of State, Defence, R.A.F.	Fortescue or Blaker

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3. This assumes that only Michael Noble retires. Kershaw could also go, which would make another space and one that St. John Stevas could fill.

A further vacancy would require to be filled if Royle or Kirk led our delegation to the European Parliament.

4. If Godber is Minister of Agriculture it would be possible to move Peter Mills to make way for a junior Minister in this Department in the Lords. George Jellicoe and Michael St Aldwyn want this, but I am reluctant to give up a Minister in the Commons because I need more room for back bench promotions. If you decided to move Mills, he could go as U/S of State, N.I. (I have not discussed this possibility with Willie but I have no reason to think he would not agree.)



3rd November, 1972