



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ 211 6402

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

5 May 1979

Dear Mike,

SPECIAL ADVISER

You asked me to write concerning the appointment of Mr Michael Denzil Xavier Portillo as his adviser on energy matters. This appointment was made on the basis of a note handed to my Secretary of State by Mr Wolfson (copy attached). In accordance with this instruction a Press release was made on 10 May (copy attached) on the basis that as Mr Portillo had worked since 1976 in the Conservative Research Department in support of a shadow spokesman for energy he would fall into the professional or expert category of special advisers.

A copy of this letter plus attachments goes to David Laughrin in Sir Ian Bancroft's office.

Yours sincerely,

Bill

W J Burroughs
Private Secretary

Mr Wolfson confirmed that Mr Portillo does not come into PM's expert category. I told Mr Burroughs & CSD. No further action necessary as this does not invalidate ~~the~~ Den press release. MAF 16/6

TO DAVID HOWELL
FROM DAVID WOLFSON



10 DOWNING STREET

Dear David,

- ① P.M. happy for you
to take Michael Patillo.
- ② Michael Patillo delighted
to join you.

In view of Guardian Article
today, will you ① Press Release
as soon as possible? ② Contact
Michael Yarnell?

David

C.C. PRIME MINISTER.

DEPARTMENT OF

ENERGY

Reference No 75

May 10, 1979

Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ. Telephone: 01-211 3000
Press Office Direct Line: 01-211 4545 (10 lines) (Out of hours: 01-215 7877)

PRESS NOTICE

ENERGY ADVISER FOR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

Mr Michael Portillo, who formerly worked in the Conservative Research Department, will become an adviser on energy matters to the Secretary of State for Energy. He will take up his new post forthwith.

Mr Portillo, who is 25, has worked on energy subjects at the Conservative Research Department since May 1976. Before that he was employed by the Ocean Transport and Trading Company Ltd. He was educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge.