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File Att

Lees Muhalters

Mu-Hoskyns

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

LONGER TERM MEASURES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

You saw the Prime Minister this morning to discuss your minute A05258 of 16 July about the proposed group of Ministers to study and make recommendations on the various suggestions for longer term measures to reduce unemployment. As I have since reported to you, the Prime Minister also discussed the matter at a subsequent meeting with the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As a result of these discussions the Prime Minister has decided that the group should be chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and as I told you, she would be grateful if you would see Mr Pym to let him know this. We discussed how we might use the CPRS to support Mr Pym in his role as chairman of the group.

The Prime Minister has also decided that the remaining membership of the group should be as follows:-

Secretary of State for Employment
Secretary of State for Defence
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Social Services
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Minister of State, Department of Industry
(Mr Tebbit)

Other Ministers, such as Mr Stanley, may be invited to attend meetings of the group as necessary.

The Prime Minister is also content for officials, including the CPRS, Mr Walters and Mr Hoskyns, to attend.

KWW.

17 July 1981

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