

FILE

RIP

PRIME MINISTER

cc:- Mr Ingham

I gather you told Bernard last week that you would be happy, in principle, to sit for the portrait painter Mrs Mendoza, who is a friend of Angela Rippon's. Bernard has already told Angela Rippon of your agreement.

I am not at all happy about this and should have made my views clear before. The diary is worse than ever and when Clive and I had a look last week at the late summer months, you are probably going to get less holiday than in past years. This is because the House might rise late and you will have to go to Balmoral early in order to prepare for your China trip and to get back in good time for the Party Conference. I am very loath to fill up your precious couple of weeks holiday with portrait sittings. Consequently, I have called Angela Rippon and told her there could be as much as a year's delay on even the first sitting.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

11 January, 1982