



APPOINTMENT - IN CONFIDENCE

Prime Minister 1

Content for Mr Fowler to
 appoint Nicholas True as
his Special Adviser?

WM
 23/3

Yes

Prime Minister

For some time I have felt that it would be extremely useful if I had within the Department a Special Adviser who would be able to assist in the public presentation of our policies in health and social security. This would involve consideration of the best ways of publicising decisions, drafting speeches and in some cases carrying out an initial examination of different options. I feel that this will be particularly important in the next 18 months.

This led me to consider whether there were any possible candidates who might, with your permission, be able to come here as a Special Adviser. There is one outstanding candidate and that is Nicholas True of Conservative Research Department. I have talked informally with Cecil Parkinson on this and he believes that such a move would be a good idea - not least because it would broaden Mr True's experience.

I believe that Mr True would be prepared to serve as a Special Adviser on the usual understandings, and I think that it would be possible to arrange for his appointment on terms (broadly within the Principal pay range) which would meet the Treasury requirements. If Mr True did come to the Department I gather that he should be able to be given leave of absence by the Central Office for the period concerned.

I would be very grateful if you would agree to this. I believe there is a good story to tell in social services and health and I would see such an appointment as a significant step towards improving the presentation of our policies.

N F

N F

22 March 1982