



Promising though William Hague is, it is a bit difficult to see what a 21-year old will contribute as a special adviser in the Treasury. But there have already been references in the press to this

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so I think that it is well advanced.

No - this is a gimmick and would be dearly resented by many who have financial-economic experience

17 March 1983

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FERB

18.3.

New Report.

* Indeed I gather that he has turned down adoption as a candidate in order to do this job.

SPECIAL ADVISERS AT HM TREASURY

As you know, there have under this Government been three Special Adviser posts here. Adam Ridley has been here since 1979, Robin Harris succeeded George Cardona in 1981, and Douglas French succeeded Peter Cropper a year ago. Douglas French has now decided that he must return to his own business, and will be leaving at the end of this month. The Chancellor - and the Chief Secretary, whose Adviser Douglas French notionally is - are minded to appoint as his successor William Hague, a copy of whose c.v. I attach. (The Prime Minister will I am sure remember his 1977 Party Conference speech as a 16 year old schoolboy!)

The Prime Minister's approval is of course required for the appointment of a Special Adviser. I should be most grateful if you could confirm that she would be content with the appointment of William Hague.

I should perhaps add that the question of the appropriate salary has not yet been settled. Given Hague's (lack of) age, it would be rather lower than that now paid to Douglas French.

Yours ever,
J O KERR