

10 DOWNING STREET

Dear Clive.

My intelligence is that the Pym/ARK's meeting was fairly inconclusive (Pym later described the situation as a heuristic one): but that 1567 were both disposed to accept Marland if the Prime Minister did not want to appoint a Minister. In the meantime the FCO are busily collecting arguments as to why Marland is not suitable.

Curiously enough I find that Frank Cooper would himself still rate Bill Pile very highly for this job (a good manager, ex-Director of Prisons, helped Thatcher on his resignation etc). But I take it he is completely unquoted with the P.M.?

Tom

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