

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

Sir Robert Armstrong

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05515 of 14 September about the recomposition of the 5 main Cabinet Committees following yesterday's Cabinet changes.

The Prime Minister has approved the changes in the membership of E which you recommended, together with the addition of the Paymaster General.

The Prime Minister would also like Mr. Parkinson to be a member of H.

I have told him that he is to be a member of both E and H. I have also told Mr. Buckley that Lady Young will not be a member of E.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposed membership of L and QL.

As regards OD, she agrees that Mr. Pym should remain a member and that we do not put on Lady Young. She would like Mr. Prior to be treated in exactly the same way as Mr. Pym is for E.

**A. WHITMORE**

15 September, 1981.

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1.

*M. Pym res but see average not.*

*Prime Minister.*

*Agree these proposals?*

*Do you want Mr Pym to be a member of OD? Definitely not to; and in any case probably desirable not to have him in view of some of his remarks today.*

Ref. A05515

MR. WHITMORE

I attach proposals for the recomposition of the five main Cabinet Committees, in the light of today's Cabinet changes.

2. So far as the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy (E) is concerned, I assume that the Prime Minister will want Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Prior to remain members of it in their new posts. Mr. Jenkin, as Secretary of State for Industry, needs to be added, I assume that, as Lord President, Mr. Pym should continue to be invited to come as necessary, and free to attend if he sees fit, but should not be added to the membership of the Committee. I doubt whether it is necessary to add Lady Young to the membership. On this basis we end up with a Committee of 14, one more than at present.

*as does Mr Tebbit, as Secretary of State for Employment.*

*Agreed MB*

3. As to the Ministerial Committee on Home and Social Affairs (H), I think that the membership can remain as at present in terms of Departments represented; all that is needed is some revision of the order.

4. As to the Legislation Committee (L) I assume that Mr. Pym should continue as Chairman, and Lady Young should come on as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Otherwise the composition can remain unchanged.

5. As to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee (OD), I assume that Mr. Pym stays on as Lord President and that we do not put on Lady Young as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Otherwise the composition can remain unchanged. The Prime Minister may, however, wish to consider whether the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland should be added to the Committee. It is this Committee which deals with Northern Ireland affairs. Mr. Atkins was not on the Committee, though of course he was always invited when Northern Ireland affairs were considered.

*I doubt it - he needs a lot of time in Northern Ireland.*

6. As to the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) I assume that Mr. Pym will remain a member as Lord President, and Lady Young will come on as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.



I think he should come to the Economic Committee Home Social Affairs

- 7. I have not included the Paymaster General on any of these Committees.
- 8. I will bring forward proposals for the recomposition of other Ministerial Cabinet Committees tomorrow. I attach the proposed revised composition of the five dealt with in this minute.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th September, 1981



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MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STRATEGY

E Prime Minister  
Home Secretary  
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Secretary of State for Education and Science  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Secretary of State for Industry  
Secretary of State for Trade  
Chief Secretary, Treasury  
Secretary of State for Energy  
Secretary of State for Employment



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HOME AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

H Home Secretary (Chairman)  
Lord Chancellor  
Secretary of State for Education and Science  
Lord President  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Secretary of State for Social Services  
Chief Secretary, Treasury  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Secretary of State for Employment  
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury  
Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms



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LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

- L Lord President (Chairman)
- Lord Chancellor
- Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Wales
- Lord Privy Seal
- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Attorney General
- Lord Advocate
- Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
- Financial Secretary, Treasury
- Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms



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DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

OD Prime Minister  
Home Secretary  
Lord Chancellor  
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Lord President  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Lord Privy Seal  
Secretary of State for Trade



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QUEEN'S SPEECHES AND FUTURE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QL Home Secretary (Chairman)  
Lord Chancellor  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Lord President  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Attorney General  
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury  
Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms