



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1979

Dear Alan

Thank you for your letter of 28 June, about Mr. Marten's wish to appoint Mr. Robert Rhodes James as Parliamentary Private Secretary.

The Prime Minister has noted that Mr. Rhodes James would serve as PPS both to Mr. Ridley and Mr. Marten and she is content with this arrangement.

Could I draw your attention to paragraph 38 of Questions of Procedure for Ministers, which makes it clear that the Prime Minister's approval must be sought before any appointment as PPS is offered or announced. You should also have seen a copy of Ken Stowe's letter to Cabinet Ministers' Private Secretaries of 7 May, further underlining that the Prime Minister had asked that clearance should be obtained from the Chief Whip and from her before any prospective Parliamentary Private Secretary is approached. If for any reason the Prime Minister had not wished Mr. Marten to offer the post to Mr. Rhodes James, she would have been put in an invidious position by being asked to approve the appointment after soundings had been taken. Fortunately, she regards this as an excellent choice.

I am sending copies of this letter to Felicity Yonge (Chief Whip's Office), Margaret Turner (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever
Mike Pattison

E. A. Burner, Esq.,
Overseas Development Administration.

28



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PRIME MINISTER

Messrs. Marten and Ridley
would like to ask Mr. Robert
Rhodes James to act as their PPS.
The Chief Whip is content with
this proposal.

Agree?

MAD Excellent
not

I have written
MAD

29 June 1979

Cabinet Office: no comment



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Note sent to PM

MAD 29/6/79

From the Minister

28 June 1979

Dear Mike,

Mr Marten has approached Mr Robert Rhodes James who has indicated that he would be happy to be PPS to Mr Ridley and himself. The Chief Whip's office is happy with this proposal. I should be grateful if you would confirm whether this is also acceptable to the Prime Minister.

*Yours ever,
Alan Burner.*

(E A Burner)
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

28 JUN 1979

