



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 October 1985

Dear Charles,

EPG

Following the Foreign Secretary's discussions with the Prime Minister on this subject, Sir Geoffrey Howe has spoken to Lord Barber and the latter has agreed to take part in the Eminent Persons' Group as British nominee.

The Foreign Secretary saw Lord Barber this afternoon and the latter was subsequently briefed by officials.

I attach a copy of the suggested press announcement, together with supplementary material which has been cleared with Lord Barber. We suggest that the statement should be issued tomorrow by the No 10 Press Office. Lord Barber proposes to make a short factual statement of his own at the same time. He will clear this with us. But he will decline to answer questions until the other members of the Group have been formally announced.

The Foreign Secretary proposes to inform Ramphal and has asked him to call at 1500 tomorrow. We also intend to inform the South African Ambassador at the same time. Our posts in those countries which are involved in setting up the Eminent Persons' Group will also be asked to inform their host governments as a matter of courtesy. But we will tell the Canadian High Commissioner here in advance in view of our continuing contacts with the Canadians on this subject.

It would be helpful to know as soon as possible if the Prime Minister is content with the terms of the statement.

Yours ever,

Le Appleyard
(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

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