

F E R Butler Esq



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong GCB, CVO
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and Permanent Secretary to the
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Secretary of the Cabinet and Permanent Secretary to the Management and Personnel Office
Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A083/2116

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

Ministerial Steering Committee on
Economic Strategy (ES)

I am instructed by the Prime Minister to invite you to be a member of this Committee.

2. I am copying this minute to all members of the Committee for information.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18 July 1983

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 July 1983

Your Secretary of State wrote to the Prime Minister about the membership of E(LF).

The Prime Minister agrees to Mr. Edwards being added to the membership of the Sub-Committee.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Adam Peat, Esq.,
Welsh Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Ministerial Steering Committee on Economic
Strategy (~~ED~~ CES)

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 13 July (A083/2061) about the suggestion that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be added to the membership of ES.

The Prime Minister agrees that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should become a member of this committee. She mentioned this to the Chancellor of the Exchequer this morning, who welcomed the addition of Sir Geoffrey Howe.

E. E. R. BUTLER

14 July 1983

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Prime Minister

If you feel inclined to add Sir Geoffrey Howe to ES, I suggest that you mention it to Mr. Lawson at 9.30 tomorrow morning. FERB

Ref. A083/2061

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Steering Committee on Economic Strategy (ES) 13.7.

When we discussed the membership of the new top-level Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy, we did not add the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to the membership: we thought that it would be a little peripheral to his main interests, and that he was likely so often to be abroad; and perhaps there was some feeling not to seem to cramp the style of his successor as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

2. Sir Geoffrey Howe has indicated, however, that he would like to be considered for membership of the Committee. Its terms of reference are:

"To keep under review the broad development of the Government's economic strategy, both internal and external".

He thinks that the reference to "external" economic strategy gives him a considerable interest as Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

3. As he would positively like to be on the Committee, I expect you would like to have him, and if you agree I will proceed accordingly. But I suggest that the membership should be personal: no substitutes accepted if he is away.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 July 1983

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