

CONFIDENTIAL



file Bore  
bc A. Turabnell

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister discussed with the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip this morning the composition of the MISC group to discuss public expenditure. They concluded that the composition should be the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Chief Secretary.

E. E. R. BUTLER

17 October 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister ④

You are considering membership of MISC group.  
Current proposal is <sup>on Public</sup> expenditure

Lord President

Lord Privy Seal

SS / Scotland

SS / Employment

CST

+ possibly Chancellor of the  
Duchy.

Monday morning

AT

12/10

Ministerial Groups on Public Expenditure: Membership

July 1979  
MISC 11

Chairman: Chancellor of the Exchequer  
(Sir G Howe)

Regular members: Lord President of the Council  
(Lord Soames)  
Secretary of State for Trade  
(Mr Nott)  
Chief Secretary, Treasury  
(Mr Biffen)

October 1980  
MISC 47

Chairman: Chancellor of the Exchequer  
(Sir G Howe)

Regular members: Home Secretary  
(Mr Whitelaw)  
Lord President of the Council  
(Lord Soames)  
Chief Secretary, Treasury  
(Mr Biffen)

October 1981  
MISC 62

Chairman: Home Secretary  
(Mr Whitelaw)

Regular members: Secretary of State for Scotland  
(Mr Younger) \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State for Industry  
(Mr Jenkin) \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Secretary, Treasury  
(Mr Brittan) \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET



7

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

Your views are sought on two issues

(i) The Chancellor is keen to add Lord Cockfield to the MISC group, the Chief Secretary does not want him on. The case for Lord Cockfield is that as a ~~new~~ Department minister with an economic background, it would seem natural to include him. The Chief Secretary's reluctance may be personal.

Agree addition of Lord Cockfield (as well as Mr Tebbit). We ~~disliked~~ <sup>will deliberate</sup>

(ii) Treasury advice (EST and <sup>will deliberate</sup> ~~write~~ <sup>not</sup> Chancellor) now favours a written report to Cabinet. They want this in order to pin down figures already agreed and to avoid accusations that colleagues were not being told of unpleasant measures eg on social security.

Murray  
ms

PTD



TO DOWNING STREET

Report could be a minute to you which reports state of play (details in short annexes) and which suggests remitting outstanding issues to MISC group. No substantive discussion would be invited - only procedural.

Agree such a paper/minute?

AT

10/10