

B/f 24/9/85

CONFIDENTIAL

Nigel Wicks

The attached is self-explanatory, and you will see from the Prime Minister's note that she would like to discuss this at Cabinet before sending out the letters to Junior Ministers.

I understand that the matter was not raised at the meeting of the Cabinet on 12th September. I also see from the diary that you are arranging a meeting to discuss publicity for the Government, which takes place on Tuesday, 24th September. Perhaps this would be a suitable opportunity to raise this matter again, and I would be glad if you could add it to the meeting Agenda.

M.A.

MICHAEL ALISON  
19.9.85

"Raiding the pension funds."

AM/letter to:

Richard Hickmet / SAfrica.

Prime Minister

When you talked to Jeffrey Archer this morning, you agreed that you should write a personal letter to Ministers not in the Cabinet whom you considered particularly suitable for television appearances and other broadcasts.

I attach a letter to one of the list you agreed, which you could use as a draft if you wish. But if you sign it, then I will arrange for Tessa to type the others to the Ministers concerned. They are:-

Lynda Chalker  
Michael Howard  
Norman Lamont  
John Moore  
Tony Newton  
Chris Patten  
John Patten  
Malcolm Rifkind

You proposed to convey the gist of the text of this letter to Cabinet colleagues generally, with a view in particular to the following:-

Kenneth Baker  
Kenneth Clarke  
Michael Heseltine  
Douglas Hurd  
Tom King  
John MacGregor

Norman Tebbit  
David Young

*MA*

*1. I think we should have our first new Cabinet meeting before sending out letters*

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

I am writing to you privately and individually, following the recent Government reshuffle, because I have particular confidence in your skill and experience in handling television and radio programmes on which you are asked to appear.

Jeffrey Archer, who as you know I have appointed a Deputy Chairman of the Party, tells me that the independent TV/AM broadcasters complain regularly that it is hard to get Government Ministers up at 6.30 a.m. to take part in their morning programmes. As the latter reach an audience of 2½ million people every morning, it is very much in the Government's interests that good news from your Department should be effectively presented to them. I hope therefore that you will be specially alert to identify a suitable occasion when you <sup>best time</sup> take the initiative in asking to appear on TV/AM. Jeffrey Archer tells me that if your Private Secretary gets in touch with Mr Jason Pollock of that Channel, he will do everything in his power to ensure that you get a chance to appear.

If TV/AM take the initiative in approaching you, please accept! You have probably noticed that leading Socialist front-benchers frequently appear on TV/AM. I would be specially grateful if you could match them, as far as practicable, in making the necessary effort to use this broadcasting facility.

Nigel Wicks

I am not quite sure of the procedure,  
but can I let you have this note about  
the possibility of bringing up the  
attached subject up for discussion  
at the next meeting of the Cabinet?

MA

MICHAEL ALISON  
25.9.85