

**CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT**

32 SMITH SQUARE · SW1

MEMORANDUM

To..... The Chairman cc: see below

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From..... Andrew Dunlop

26th September 1985

CHANGES AT WALWORTH ROAD

1. General

Following the appointment of Larry Whitty as General-Secretary of the Labour Party, the NEC have endorsed his proposals to streamline the Party Organisation, improve the quality of management and sharpen up the Party's campaigning function.

As part of this process the ten old departments at Walworth Road have been reduced to three. The Heads of these departments will, with Whitty, now take all the key operational decisions.

These changes will undoubtedly have an important influence, increasing the effectiveness of the Labour Party's performance.

2. Organisation

The Labour Party organisation has hitherto been chaotic (as evidenced by the 1983 General Election Campaign).

Walworth Road is notoriously bureaucratic, with much time spent administering itself and servicing endless committees which have churned out tedious and detailed policy statements.

This can be expected to change. Kinnock has set out to make the Party organisation an instrument to enhance his own personal authority within the Party and reduce the influence of the Left.

While the present changes represent a compromise worked out within the NEC, they nevertheless significantly increase the power of the office of General-Secretary (with an incumbent personally loyal to Kinnock). It is likely that if Kinnock wishes to get something done he will establish ad hoc committees, and attempt to by-pass the NEC whenever possible.

3. Personnel

Three new Heads of department have been appointed to deal with Campaign and Communications, Organisation and Policy Development. The new incumbents are as follows:

- a) Campaigns and Communications: Peter Mandelson.  
Aged 31. One-time adviser to Albert Booth between 1980-2 when he was Shadow Transport Secretary. He worked previously in the TUC Economic Department. Prior to his appointment he was a producer on London Weekend's 'Weekend World'.

He is on the Right of the Party, and many of his one-time political allies have since joined the SDP (see also attached press cutting). He is nevertheless a Labour loyalist of the old school (possibly because he is the grandson of Herbert Morrison). His main backer for the job was Roy Hattersley. Kinnock although initially sceptical, also decided to back him.

It is significant that the Party rejected one of the other candidates for the job, Nita Clarke, press adviser to Ken Livingstone. Dennis McShane, a former President of the NUJ was also a contender.

Former colleagues of Mr Mandelson say he is very able and therefore an unwelcome choice from our point of view. He will however have to prove he is tough enough to push through changes in the face of any left-wing opposition from within the NEC.

- b) Organisation: Joyce Gould.

Age 52. She has been a long-time Party worker, who has hitherto been the Chief Women's Officer and an Assistant National Agent.

She appears to be a 'safe' compromise choice. Larry Whitty was known to favour a candidate from without the present Walworth Road staff. Several trade union nominees had been mentioned.

With a newly strengthened office of the General-Secretary (both the former National Agent and a newly created political adviser will supplement the General-Secretary), the post of Director of Organisation might become less important.

- c) Policy Development: Geoff Bish.

Aged 46. Currently Head of Research at Walworth Road, a post he has held since 1974.

The other contenders for the job were Adrian Ham, an economic adviser in the last Labour Government, and Roy Green who covers industrial policy in the Party's Research Department.

This also appears to be a safe compromise. Bish is a Party bureaucrat who has survived several changes in the Party's leadership and of the post of General-Secretary.

It may not be too cynical to suggest that with a strong Director of Campaigns and Communications the role of Policy Development will, in time, become subordinate to the campaigning function.

cc: Mr Harris  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Rock  
Mr Sherbourne ✓

AJD/CLB

11/12/88

24 SEP 1988

### Fact off?

M My money for the Labour Party's new communications and media supremo - expected to be announced later today - is on Ken Livingstone's aide, Nita Clarke. David Gow of *The Scotsman*, a strong contender, dropped out at the last minute. Still hotly tipped is London Weekend Television producer Peter Mandelson, but his domestic set-up may not be entirely to the liking of Labour's NEC members. He shares his home in Clapham with David Owen's press secretary, Sue Robertson.