

Minutes of Meeting.
(Diary)

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alison ✓

THE MONDAY MORNING MEETING

I suggest the following for the agenda:

1. Contacts with Ministers. See my note at Flag A attached.
2. Current topics. You may want to mention next Friday's meeting on GCHQ (to which the Lord President cannot come, and to which the Lord Privy Seal is not invited).

Westlands may also be a live issue.

3. Review of the Government's position generally.
4. Presentation of Government Policy. Looks to be going well.

Anything more to do?

5. Members' Interests. The Lord Privy Seal may wish to raise the forthcoming debate (on which see Flag B).
6. Fraud and the City. The Lord President is, like everyone, concerned about the smear campaign being waged against the Government and the Conservative Party by the opposition regarding the City and fraud. He thinks that Government publicity in the presentation of the Financial Services Bill will provide an important opportunity to counter-attack.

NLW

13 December, 1985.

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PRIME MINISTER

c Mr Alison ~~W~~
Mrs Ryder

CONTACTS WITH COLLEAGUES

I suggest that at your meeting with the Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Chief Whip and Chairman on Monday you emphasise the importance which you attach to maintaining the closest possible contacts with Cabinet colleagues. This could be done in the following ways:

(i) Monday morning meetings with the Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Chief Whip and Chairman.

Unfortunately a series of clashing engagements have knocked out recent Monday morning meetings (see attachment). But you intend that the meetings will be a regular occurrence in the New Year. (Caroline has etched these meetings in concrete in the diary!)

(ii) Lunch after Monday morning meetings.

Usually these lunches include, besides the four Ministers attending the Monday morning meeting (and of course Michael), invited colleagues and David Wolfson. I suggest that you ask the four Ministers about the value of these lunches. Would they prefer, for example, sometimes to continue their discussion à quatre over lunch without always inviting other Cabinet colleagues?

(iii) Bilaterals with senior Cabinet colleagues.

You already have weekly bilaterals with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign Secretary. I have included in the diary in the New Year fortnightly discussions with the Lord President and the Chancellor of the Duchy. I have put the Chief Whip down for half an hour before the Monday morning meeting. (NB: no regular slot for the Lord Privy Seal.)

These meetings should enable you to check that these

senior colleagues are aware of your views and important topics arising in Ministerial meetings.

(iv) Bilaterals with other Cabinet colleagues.

I think that there is a strong case for bilaterals, say once a week, with certain (but not all) Cabinet colleagues to ensure that they are kept well on side and that you know what is concerning them, both politically and departmentally.

Your meeting with Mr. Hurd on Monday is a good example of what I have in mind. Candidates for future meetings might be Mr. Edwards, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Baker, etc. With this in mind I have pencilled into the diary quarter of an hourly slots each Wednesday beginning 15 January. Would you like to pursue this? I hope you do. If so, we can decide candidates a little nearer the time.

I think that these arrangements, in addition to your normal Cabinet and other discussions, would help to keep in contact with your Ministers.

Shall we proceed on this basis?

N.L.W.

12 December 1985