



Prime Minister

Agree that the Chancellor should take this on? He would be elected in April. Mr. Kealey chaired this Committee from 1977 to 1979.

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

FERB

5. 10.

4 October 1982

F E R Butler Esq.
No.10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Yes
mt

New Robm.

IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

When the Chancellor talked with Secretary Regan in Washington recently, Regan pressed him very warmly to seek the chairmanship of the IMF Interim Committee, which has just become vacant with MacEachen's move in Ottawa from the Department of Finance to the Department of External Affairs. I attach a note of previous Interim Committee meetings and chairmen.

You may recall that the Chancellor was suggested as a candidate in May 1981 but then withdrew in favour of MacEachen. He would be prepared to succeed him now, but only if that were the general wish. Having the chair would not entail attending additional meetings and would involve only a marginal increase in preparatory work. And it would give us a slight advantage, though this would not in the Chancellor's view be so great as to justify fighting a major battle to secure it.

Our preliminary soundings have however proved encouraging. It is clear that the French and Germans would be likely to be enthusiastic supporters, and see no other potential Community candidate, and that the IMF Managing Director would not only support the Chancellor himself but would actively discourage alternative suggestions.

Before taking this further, the Chancellor would like to be sure that the Prime Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, would be content for him to do so. I should be grateful if you, and Brian Fall, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, could let me know.

If we go ahead, the next steps would be to confirm agreement among The Group of Five (France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States) at a meeting of Deputies on 13/14 October, and to ensure that others in that group would be ready to canvass support in particular areas in which they have influence. We would then want to ask for FCO help in spreading a wider canvass via diplomatic posts. Formally, the election of the next

CONFIDENTIAL



Chairman might not take place until the beginning of the next Interim Committee meeting in Washington next April, but there would probably be a general disposition to settle matters well in advance, not least in order to facilitate preparations for that meeting.

Yours ever,
John Kerr

JO KERR
Principal Private Secretary

INTERIM COMMITTEE

	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
1. October 1974	Washington	J N Turner (Can.)
2. January 1975	Washington	J N Turner (Can.)
3. June 1975	Paris	J N Turner (Can.)
4. August 1975	Washington	J N Turner (Can.)
5. January 1976	Kingston	W de Clercq (Bel.)
6. October 1976	Manila	W de Clercq (Bel.)
7. October 1976	Manila	W de Clercq (Bel.)
8. April 1977	Washington	W de Clercq (Bel.)
9. September 1977	Washington	D Healey (UK)
10. April 1978	Mexico City	D Healey (UK)
11. September 1978	Washington	D Healey (UK)
12. March 1979	Washington	D Healey (UK)
13. October 1979	Belgrade	F M Pandolfi (Italy)
14. April 1980	Hamburg	F M Pandolfi (Italy)
15. September 1980	Washington	H Andrasch (Aus.)
		[R Monory (Fr.)]
16. May 1981	Libreville	A J MacEachen (Can.)
17. September 1981	Washington	A J MacEachen (Can.)
18. May 1982	Helsinki	A J MacEachen (Can.)
19. September 1982	Toronto	A J MacEachen (Can.)

Econ Pol

consultations with IMF

June 1979

10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

OCT 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

ECON. POLICY



2cc AH
cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Dear John,

IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 4 October to me about the suggestion that the Chancellor should succeed Mr MacEachen as Chairman of the IMF Interim Committee next April, if that were the general wish. For her part, she is perfectly content that the Chancellor should allow his name to go forward on these terms.

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

John Kerr Esq.,
HM Treasury.

AH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 October 1982

John Pym

MR 8/10

p.a.

TM

IMF Interim Committee Chairmanship

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has seen your letter of 4 October. He is very pleased that the Chancellor's name should go forward for the Chairmanship of the Interim Committee in 1983. Mr Pym has noted that the prospects look much better than in 1981. He very much hopes that the Chancellor will be successful.

The procedure which you outline in your last paragraph seems entirely satisfactory. The FCO stands ready to give its full support to the Chancellor's candidature when the time comes to undertake the wider canvass, and to help in any other way.

I am copying this letter to Robin Butler at No 10.

Your own

Robin Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

J O Kerr Esq
Principal Private Secretary
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

CONFIDENTIAL

-7 OCT 1952

11 12 1
8 2
9 3
8 4
7 5