

file DSANT



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*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

I spoke to Alan Walters in Washington yesterday and he explained that he is booked to give a series of lectures on the international economy at John Hoskyns in the Autumn and Spring. Press are not invited, but the potential audience is quite large - around 120 students. I have discussed this with Nigel Wicks, who has it in mind to write to Alan on the following lines:

"Thank you for sending the various articles to me. This is most helpful - it not only improves my understanding of economics, but should also avoid 'problems'. I hope that you can let me see any future articles.

x - Andy Bearpark has told me about your commitment to give a series of lectures in the Autumn and Spring on international economics. As you surmise, the media might try to use them to cause us all trouble. Indeed, I would not rule out some unscrupulous press person infiltrating himself into the lectures, persuading one of the students to let him have notes or even to produce a surreptitious tape of what you say. ~~Could I therefore ask that you take especial care to avoid anything in those lectures which could cause us all embarrassment. You will also need to be on your guard for planted questions."~~

Nigel has asked for your advice on this draft letter, and also on whether the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, should be told about this. Nigel's initial view is that it may be best if you mention the matter to Mr Lawson at a suitable occasion rather than telling the Treasury officially, but he is quite happy to take advice on this.

You should also know that we are receiving a steady stream of articles from Alan which we are vetting and showing the Treasury. So far, there have been no problems.

P. A. BEARPARK  
5 August 1988

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