

ER
PRIME MINISTER

Patrick Jenkin, who is not in town today, was very anxious to get a letter to you this evening about Sir Peter Carey's successor.

It seemed to me that the best way was for him to give me the text of his letter, so that I could put it into your box. The following is the text:

"I have been giving very careful thought to the points which you put to me on 22 November about Sir Peter Carey's successor here. With the best will in the world, I would find it extremely difficult to accede to the proposal you are pressing on me. While it would not be appropriate to spell out in this message the precise reasons, the more I have pondered them, the more I am certain that it would not work. In the end, this comes down to a question of personal relationships, and while I have no wish whatever to be unfair in any way to a very able Civil Servant, I have never felt at ease with him, and I do not think I could do so in the future.

I hope therefore that you will forgive me if I continue to press on you my reluctance to agree to this appointment."

MCS

3 December 1982