

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

Mr Rifkind has now been Secretary of State for about three months. It is time for a talk about how he is getting on. You will have your own views on how best to "keep him on board and supportive of your policies". Some topics for the discussion might be as follows:-

- i) You will want to convey to him that he has not been sent to the Scottish Office to increase public expenditure (though to be fair, Brian Unwin tells me that he has not discerned in recent weeks any particular push from the Scottish Office for extra public expenditure). The point perhaps to put to Mr Rifkind is that his task is to ensure that maximum value for money is obtained from the existing level of resources in his block and to ask him about the initiatives he has in hand for doing just that.
- ii) You might ask him for his views on how the Government might maximise its political prospects. No doubt he, as the youngest member of Cabinet, may be a bit taken aback to be asked such a question. But it is worth teasing an answer out of him. If his reply is off beam, you could put him right.
- iii) Mr Rifkind's office enquired recently about your ideas for the education service, and I expect that Mr Rifkind will want to raise this issue with you. He will have seen a lot of the debate about the future of education in the newspapers, and he may feel that, though an education Minister, he is somewhat left out of the discussion. He may believe that you are having "a summit meeting" with Sir Keith Joseph in the Easter Recess. You

may want to encourage him to put forward his own ideas and to give him some of your own thoughts as you gave Geoffrey Smith today.

N.C.U.

N.L. Wicks

24 March 1986

MR WICKS ✓

1. CR CR
Good

NLU

2. CFB / F me 24 March

BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

NLU

I have fixed this for 1715 hours on Tuesday
25 March in the House of Commons.

CR.

Caroline Ryder

13 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

Nigel Wicks has asked me to fix various slots in the diary for you to have a general chat with members of the Cabinet. I need hardly tell you that this is proving relatively difficult.

Most unusually you have a completely free afternoon this coming Monday and Malcolm Rifkind is coming to the lunch for colleagues. It struck me that it would be a good opportunity if he stayed behind.

Agree?

C.R.

28 February 1986

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Not Submitted