

no.
Ref. AG83/2745

MR BUTLER

Publicity for Open Structure Appointments

The Executive Editor of The Times has written to me and to a number of other Permanent Secretaries, saying that The Times would like to print in its appointments column all promotions into and within the Open Structure at Under Secretary level and above. The Times is asking to be supplied with the information on a regular basis for this purpose.

2. I have consulted my Permanent Secretary colleagues. None of us can see any objection to this, and indeed we are in favour of it, subject only to one exception: for security reasons we should prefer not to make public announcements about senior appointments in the Northern Ireland Office.

3. I hope that the Prime Minister will see no objection to my writing to The Times to say that we are glad to see them announce appointments at Deputy and Under Secretary levels (subject to the one exception of the Northern Ireland Office), and undertaking to provide them with the information required for this purpose.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 October 1983

Mr. Ingham

Have you any view which you would like me to put to the PM?

J. Bullis

FERS

4.10.

I think it is a good idea; after all the appointments offered in few books eventually. And masses of industrial/commercial appointments at a lower level are published daily in quantities. Heaney may not, of course, provide each appointment, but he would do that in any case. 'kshort, why not? B 57.