

PRIME MINISTER

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAR CHAMBER

I have had a further update from the Chief Secretary's office on progress in the PES negotiations.

The Chief Secretary is rapidly reaching the view that at least three colleagues are determined to go to Star Chamber - the Home Secretary, the Education Secretary and the Defence Secretary. (Further discussions are planned this week: so bilateral settlements are still possible.)

The timetable is very tight. And Treasury and Cabinet Office want to make diary arrangements now so that the work of the Star Chamber can get under way promptly after the Party Conference.

Decisions on membership of the Star Chamber therefore need to be taken. The Lord President and the Chief Secretary are of course members. You agreed with Treasury Ministers last week that Mr. Parkinson (who has now settled), Mr. Wakeham and Mr. Brooke (both on the verge of settling) should also be on Star Chamber. The only uncertainty is therefore the sixth member: it was agreed earlier that the choice lay between Mr. Clarke and Mr. Howard.

Treasury hope to be in a position by Thursday to decide, in the light of further bilateral negotiations, which Minister they would propose for the Star Chamber. The recommendation will be put to you for decision.

Yes no

(i) Content for diary arrangements for Star Chamber sessions to be made with the Private Offices of the Lord President, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Wakeham and Mr. Brooke?

(ii) Content to leave it until Thursday/Friday for a decision on who should be the sixth member of the Star Chamber?

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9 October 1990

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Yes no