

PRIME MINISTER

Dr Rhodes Boyson has sought your advice as to whether he might retain his place on the Council of the Freedom Association. The Association is now changing its constitution, and the Council members will become guarantors under the new arrangement.

The Secretary of the Cabinet usually advises on questions of the propriety of Ministerial connections. You will see from the minute below that Sir Robert feels bound to advise that it would be preferable if Dr Boyson were to cease to be a member of the Council of the Association.

May I tell his office that you would prefer him not to renew his membership?

*MA*

*Yes - under the new circumstances  
not.*

8 August, 1980

  
CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A02825

MR. PATTISON

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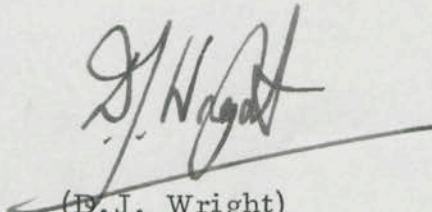
"The Freedom Association"

In your minute of 30<sup>th</sup> July, you asked for advice on Dr. Rhodes Boyson's enquiry whether he could retain his place on the Council of "The Freedom Association".

2. Questions of Procedure for Ministers (paragraph 76) advises that invitations to join political pressure groups "should normally be declined since Ministerial association with pressure groups can give rise to misunderstanding about the Government's position". I understand that Dr. Boyson was a member of the Association's Council before he took Ministerial office but that his membership was not reconsidered when the Government came to power last year.

3. I suppose that there is no fundamental conflict between the Association's aims and Government policy. But we cannot exclude the possibility of a particular set of circumstances - for instance, an industrial dispute - in which the Association was taking or was associated with activities which were not in accordance with Government policy or were otherwise not very welcome to the Government. In such circumstances, Dr. Boyson's membership of the Council of the Association could prove to be a source of some embarrassment to himself and to the Government.

4. Sir Robert Armstrong is bound therefore to advise that it would be preferable if Dr. Boyson were to cease to be a member of the Council of the Association. It appears from the papers as if he can do this by simply not replying to Lord De L'Isle's letter of January 1980.

  
(D.J. Wright)

6th August, 1980

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*je* *15*  
*bc: Co*  
*Ministers*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

11 August 1980

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 28 July, about Dr. Boyson's connections with the Freedom Association.

As you know, paragraph 76 of Questions of Procedure for Ministers covers invitations to join political pressure groups. The Prime Minister is confident that there is no fundamental conflict between the Freedom Association's aims and Government policy, but the possibility remains that in some particular set of circumstances the Association might take a position which was not in accordance with Government policy. In the circumstances, Dr. Boyson's membership of the Council of the Association could prove to be a source of some embarrassment both to himself and to the Government. The Prime Minister would therefore prefer him not to renew his membership of the Council.

M. A. PATTISON

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J. Storrer, Esq.,  
Department of Education and Science.

*SP*

JS

~~BF 12-8-80~~

MR. WRIGHT

Dr. Rhodes Boyson has asked the Prime Minister whether it is appropriate for him to retain his place on the Council of "The Freedom Association". I enclose a copy of the relevant literature from the Association. I should be grateful for your advice.

MAP

30 July 1980

JS



ELIZABETH HOUSE  
YORK ROAD  
LONDON SE1 7PH  
01-928 9222

FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY  
UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

N J Sanders Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

28 July 1980

*Dear Dick*

Dr Boyson has asked me to check with you whether or not it is appropriate for him to retain his place on the Council of "The Freedom Association" ... (details attached).

I should be grateful if you could obtain a ruling.

*John Storror*

J STORROR  
Assistant Private  
Secretary



# The Freedom Association

11 Grape Street, London WC2H 8ET

Telephone: 01-836 8553/4/5

Dr. Rhodes Boyson

As spoken, herewith copies of the original letter and form. Your support is so valuable and very much appreciated, I do hope you will be able to continue on the Council.

**With Compliments**

*Diana Andrews*  
14/7



*Find out from No 10  
if it is still OK to be  
on Council.*

# The Freedom Association

11 Grape Street, London WC2H 8ET

Telephone: 01-836 8553/4/5

January 1980

You will recall that earlier last year our Executive Director, Charles Good, sent you the draft Rules of the Association for your comments. In the absence of such comments by the date indicated, your acceptance of the Rules was assumed. This date has now long since passed.

After a number of delays and some minor amendments to the Rules consequent upon the change of name from The National Association for Freedom Limited to The Freedom Association Limited, the Rules have been adopted and the Memorandum and Articles placed at Companies House under the name of The Freedom Association Limited, to operate from 1st January 1980.

The Council has been part of the hierarchy of The Freedom Association which has governed the Association in a loose association of like minded individuals. The change of Constitution involves the formality of Council Members becoming guarantors of the Company, which is limited by guarantee.

I am writing to all members of the Council inviting those that wish to do so to become guarantors of our new Limited Company. Of course some members, due to other commitments, have been unable in the past to play much, if any, part in the deliberations of the Council. These may therefore prefer not to become guarantors and would thus cease to be members of the Council.

If you are agreeable to becoming a member (guarantor) of the Association in its new guise as a Company, I should be glad if you would complete the attached Letter of Application for membership at your earliest convenience and return it to Charles Good, Executive Director, in the envelope provided.

You will wish to know that the obligation such membership imposes on you is to be prepared, if the Association were wound up, to contribute to any deficiency - shared equally between the members - to a maximum of £1.00 per head.

If we have not received a reply from you by 1st March 1980 we will assume you have resigned your membership of the Council; we would of course quite understand your reasons for doing so.

Yours sincerely,

De L'Isle.

Chairman: Viscount De L'Isle, VC, KG Deputy Chairman: Norris McWhirter Hon. Treasurer: W.R. Middleton, MBE, FCA  
Management Committee: Vice-Admiral Sir John Roxburgh, KCB, CBE, DSO, DSC (Chairman) E. Boorman, R. Heasman, M. Ivers, J. Joster, S. Frank Taylor, K.W. Watkins  
Chief Executives: Derek Jackson (Campaigns), Charles Good (Administrative)

The Directors,  
The Freedom Association Limited,  
11, Grape Street,  
London,  
WC2H 8ET.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to become a guarantor of The Freedom Association Limited  
and on acceptance of this application I authorise you to place my  
name on the Register of Members.

Yours faithfully,