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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

7 September 1982

PERSONAL

When you came to see the Prime Minister this afternoon about your personal letter of 25 August she accepted with regret that there should be an announcement that you were formally giving up leadership of the Rayner Unit.

The Prime Minister said that she would like to leave open in the announcement the future location of the Unit, and I attach a revised draft of your letter to her on the lines which she suggested.

The Prime Minister said that she would be talking with Lady Young about this later this week, and I will ensure that Lady Young and Sir Robert Armstrong have a copy of the revised draft. If they have any further comments on it I will let you know.

You said that there was no hurry from your point of view about making an announcement and, in view of your impending visit overseas and the Prime Minister's visit to the Far East, I suggest that we should not plan on making the announcement before the end of the month. I will hope to be in touch with you about a date after the Prime Minister has talked to Lady Young.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Derek Rayner

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DRAFT LETTER FOR SIR DEREK RAYNER TO SEND TO THE PRIME MINISTER

For some months you have been aware of the need for me to reduce substantially my work for your Government. Regrettably, the time has come when I must ask you to release me from the leadership of the Unit which bears my name. I will of course, as required, continue to offer advice and complete the tasks I have undertaken personally on behalf of some Departments.

I should like to thank you for the support that you and your Ministers have given to me since May 1979, which has played a vital role in securing the support of the Departments. I have very much enjoyed the challenge and am very grateful to the substantial numbers of civil servants at all levels who have worked hard to bring about the changes associated with my name. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the superlative work done by Clive Priestley who is the Head of the Unit and has my complete confidence in carrying on the work in the direction which you and I have set.