

Ref. A082/00030

MR BUTLER

Adviser on defence affairs

Sir Frank Cooper has offered three candidates for consideration as an Adviser on defence affairs at 10 Downing Street. All are Assistant Secretaries. They are, in alphabetical order:

R T Jackling (39)

J M Legge (38)

D B Omand (35)

I attach brief biographical notes.

2. I do not know Michael Legge at all, and I know the other two only slightly. So I cannot do other than report without comment Sir Frank Cooper's judgement that the right choice would be Michael Legge. All three have Private Office experience: David Omand was the Secretary of State's Private Secretary until recently; Mr Legge's Private Office experience was eleven years ago. Mr Legge may well be the best choice; I think that Mr Jackling would run him a close second.

3. I am sure that any of them would serve the Prime Minister well, and I think that the final choice may need to be made after interviewing the three of them. Perhaps you would like to consult the Prime Minister about that: would she like to see all three herself, or will she be content for you and me to interview the three of them and then to present her with our choice?

4. Whoever is chosen will be the Prime Minister's Adviser on defence affairs. He will need to develop the same sort of relationship with the Ministry of Defence as Sir Anthony Parsons will have with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. No doubt they will in practice work together on issues where foreign and defence policy were together; but there should, I suggest, be no formal link: the Adviser on defence affairs will not "work to" Sir Anthony Parsons, and he will not have access to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

5. I suggest that we should treat this appointment on the same basis as that of Sir Anthony Parsons, as ceasing either with the end of the present Administration or, when there is a General Election, after polling day. If there is no change of Government, it will of course be open to re-appoint him; and in that event I think that we should think in terms of an appointment to last for about three years.

6. I suggest that this appointment, like Sir Anthony Parsons's, should begin on 1st January 1983.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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8th November 1982

OLAND D B (David)

Age 35. Educated Glasgow Academy and Corpus Christi, Cambridge (Economics). Married with one daughter (born 1975) and one son (born 1978).

He joined the Ministry of Defence in 1970. He has considerable experience of all aspects of Defence policy as a result of his spells in Private Office (APS/S of S 1973-75 and 1979-81) and PS/S of S (1981-82), his work on Northern Ireland business and on the co-ordination of the Defence Budget. He was PS to Mr Nott during the Falklands conflict.

He is now responsible for organization and efficiency studies throughout the MOD.

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LEGGE J K (Michael)

Aged 38. Educated Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Barnet, Royal Grammar School Guildford and Christ Church Oxford (Chemistry). Married with two sons (born 1975 and 1978).

He joined the Ministry of Defence in September 1966. He has some experience of Private Office work having served as APS/Minister (E) and as APS/S of S (1969-71). He has a very sound knowledge of nuclear policy, both as a Principal from 1973-74 and as Head of the Lead Division from 1979-82. Additionally he has a wider knowledge of NATO policy having served for 3 years with the UK Delegation to NATO. He has just completed a 6 month period of study with the Rand Corporation, at their invitation, producing a paper on Theatre Nuclear Weapons in NATO Strategy.

JACKLING R T (Rover)

Aged 39. Educated Wellington College, New York University and Jesus College Oxford (International Politics). Married with two sons (born 1978 and 1981).

He joined the Ministry of Defence in November 1969. He has a good understanding of Private Office work having served as PS/PUS(A) (1970-71) and as LPS/S of S (1976-79). He has a very sound working background on NATO, Nuclear policy and crisis management. Most recently as Head of DS11 he has been dealing with non-NATO Defence policy and was and is very deeply involved in Falkland Islands business. He was awarded the CBE for the part he played in Operation CORPORATE.

STAFF IN CONFIDENCE