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PRIME MINISTER

Subject to your agreement, I have fixed with Bernard Ingham, Sir Derek Rayner and Sir Robert Armstrong that the announcement about Sir Derek Rayner's withdrawal should be on Thursday, 9 December.

I attach a copy of the press notice and notes for editors which Sir Robert Armstrong has cleared with Sir Derek Rayner. There is one change to which I should draw your attention. With Sir Derek Rayner's agreement, Sir Robert Armstrong has included the words which I have highlighted in paragraph 10: Sir Robert Armstrong suggests that these are necessary to make it clear that Mr. Priestly is head of the management and efficiency divisions of the MPO - without any implication about the future.

Are you content?

*Yes and*

*F.R.B.*

6 December, 1982