

Ref. A082/0421

MR BUTLER

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Thank you for your minute of 7 December about the Rayner documents.

2. We are now all clear on the Press Notice.

3. I have amended the notes for editors to take account of Sir Derek Rayner's suggested amendments. I think that we should include in the notes the points that Sir Derek Rayner continues to work with the Chief Secretary, Treasury and the Lord Privy Seal on the financial management initiative and with the Secretary of State for Social Services on the NHS. These matters have no particular organisational implications, and I should have thought that we need not trouble the Prime Minister further.

4. I am content with Sir Derek Rayner's suggested minute from the Prime Minister to Ministers in charge of Departments as amended by you, subject to one point: I should like to omit the last line and a half. I do not think that we ought to suggest that some scrutinies are more important to the Prime Minister than others. I attach a fair copy of the revised draft.

5. I am content with both Sir Derek Rayner's letters to the Chief Secretary, Treasury and the Secretary of State for Social Services.

6. I am sending copies of the Press Notice and notes for editors to the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Derek Rayner.

7. I have agreed with Sir Derek Rayner that any Press queries addressed to Marks and Spencer on this subject will be referred to the No 10 Press Office, unless they are directly related to Marks and Spencer.

8. I will leave it to you to send a copy of the Press Notice and notes for editors to the Press Office. I suggest that if the Press Office are asked where the Rayner Unit now is they should say that it is in the Management and Personnel Office, working alongside the management and efficiency divisions of the MPO, who are also under Mr Clive Priestley.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 December 1982



~~9th December~~

9th December

DRAFT MINUTE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENTS

I informed the Cabinet today that

The increase in Sir Derek Rayner's business responsibilities means that he must now relinquish his leadership of the Unit which bears his name.

I have accepted this decision with regret, ~~and so~~; and an announcement is being made today.

2. Sir Derek Rayner has kindly agreed to continue to advise me and the Lord Privy Seal on general efficiency questions as necessary. He will continue to work with the Chief Secretary, Treasury and the Lord Privy Seal on the financial management initiative and to advise the Secretary of State for Social Services on management matters in the National Health Service, notably the scrutiny programme now being developed.

3. The Rayner Unit will continue to operate under the direction of Mr C Priestley, who since May 1982 has also been in charge of the management and efficiency divisions of the Management and Personnel Office. The Unit will provide staff support for Sir Derek Rayner as required and co-ordinate the programme of Departmental scrutinies.

~~4. These An announcement will be made to on these lines later today.~~



Angela, no  
interaction  
taken tonight.

P 7/12

10 DOWNING STREET

~~Robert~~

~~Peter~~

You have done well

You asked Sir Robert  
for comments by  
close of play today on  
the draft letter to Sir  
Desek Rayner. Richard  
has phoned to say that  
he will not be able to  
respond until first  
thing tomorrow.

Also, Richard was  
anxious to know what  
amendments had been

made to the 'note for  
editors'. As time is  
short for them to reply  
I have sent Richard  
a copy of Sir Derek's  
letter + your letter to  
Sir Robert. They  
are aware that you  
have not seen the  
~~own~~ letter yet.

Peter  
1920.