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10 DOWNING STREET

MR. INGHAM

I attach the final version
of the Press Notice and Notes
for Editors about Sir Derek Rayner
for issue at 3.30 p.m. tomorrow
afternoon.

PERB.

8 December 1982

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PRESS NOTICE

Sir Derek Rayner has told the Prime Minister that in view of his increasing commitments to his company he must ask to be released from the leadership of the Unit which bears his name. The Prime Minister has accepted this decision with great regret, and with warm gratitude for what Sir Derek has achieved since the Unit was created.

Sir Derek has agreed to continue to be available to offer advice and to complete certain tasks which he had undertaken personally on behalf of some Departments.

The Unit will continue to operate under the direction of Mr Clive Priestley, who has assisted Sir Derek Rayner in the work of the Unit since its inception in May 1979.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Sir Derek Rayner was appointed by the Prime Minister in May 1979 to advise her and other Ministers on the achievement of greater economy and efficiency. Sir Derek was then Joint Managing Director at Marks and Spencer plc. His appointment in Whitehall was part-time, unpaid and additional to his responsibilities at Marks and Spencer, where he has recently been made Joint Vice-Chairman.

2. Sir Derek Rayner initiated and has continued to direct a programme, forming part of the Government's wider policy for increased value for money in public expenditure, to:

- (1) scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of specific, typical functions in Government Departments;
- (2) reduce paperwork;
- (3) tackle the underlying obstacles to efficiency.

3. The aim of this work has been to show what could be done by looking at the operations of Government from a new perspective and to help Ministerial and official Heads of Departments manage them more effectively.

4. By April 1983, there will have been 135 scrutinies. There will also have been six multi-Departmental reviews, under which several Departments tackle the same subject at the same time, using the scrutiny technique.

5. Scrutinies range from those which have led to setting up improved management systems (such as for the control of staff (MINIS) and non-staff administrative costs in the Department of the Environment, or such as the Directorate-General of Management Audit in the Ministry of Defence); to those which will improve the handling of the citizens' affairs (such as the simplification of Schedule D tax procedures); and to those which have tackled large and complex areas of Government activity (such as the streamlining of payment of unemployment and supplementary benefit).

6. Multi-Departmental reviews co-ordinated by Sir Derek Rayner have already covered Government statistical services (Cmnd 8236, April 1981), administrative forms (Cmnd 8504, February 1982), and supporting services in Government R & D establishments. Current

reviews of the control of Departmental running costs, the management of such large executive operations as the District Works Offices of the Property Services Agency, and the effectiveness and efficiency of personnel work in the Civil Service, are being conducted by the Departments concerned and co-ordinated by the Management and Personnel Office.

7. ^(A) Some 700 officials

have already taken part in this process and Sir Derek Rayner has paid tribute to

(A) The value of potential savings from scrutinies and reviews in the 1979-1981 programme of investigation is £274 million a year (16,000 posts) and £39 million once-and-for-all. Decisions have been taken to implement recommendations worth £170 million a year. There will be more savings to come as future decisions are taken and as a result of the programme for 1982 which contains 27 scrutinies and 3 multi-department reviews.

has paid tribute to the value of the savings to efficiency, not at the outset of scrutiny work are:

at Secretaries to running their

planning for the

authority to line resources. This has Treasury/Management initiative day (Efficiency

Efficiency in the Civil Service, Cmnd 8616, September 1982).

9. Sir Derek Rayner has been assisted by Mr Clive Priestley who, since May 1982, has also been in charge of the management and efficiency divisions of the Management and Personnel Office. Mr Priestley will continue to be in charge of the work of the Rayner Unit.

10. Sir Derek Rayner has said that he will be available to advise the Prime Minister on general efficiency questions as necessary. He will also 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, especially the scrutiny programme now being developed there.

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7. ^(A) Some 300 civil servants have already taken part in this scrutiny work to date, and Sir Derek Rayner has paid tribute to the contribution they have made.

8. In the work of tackling underlying obstacles to efficiency, the main targets identified by Sir Derek Rayner at the outset of his work or which have been manifest through scrutiny work are:

- (1) the need for Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to identify and control the costs of running their Departments;
- (2) the need to improve succession planning for the most important posts in Departments;
- (3) the need for more delegation of authority to line managers and better control of resources. This has now been taken up as part of the Treasury/Management and Personnel Office financial management initiative launched by the Prime Minister in May (Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Civil Service, Cmnd 8616, September 1982).

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