



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 December 1982

Dear Derek,

I have received your letter of 7 December with very great regret. You let me know some time ago that your increased business commitments would make it necessary for you to reduce your involvement with your work for the Government and I accept that you cannot now put this off any longer.

In the three and a half years since you accepted my invitation to advise the Government on the achievement of greater economy and efficiency, the scrutinies of specific Government activities which have been carried out under your leadership have produced direct savings of £170 million a year and have identified substantial further savings. The techniques which you introduced for carrying out such scrutinies have proved their worth and have become established. You have initiated far reaching reforms in the way in which Whitehall Departments are managed, as well as bringing about a reduction and simplification of so much of the paper work and administrative procedures through which the Government deals with businesses and individual citizens.

These are lasting achievements which have been made possible by your leadership and personal contribution, and my colleagues and I are deeply grateful to you. I am determined that we should keep up the momentum of this work and I am delighted and grateful that you will continue to make yourself available to advise us.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Walker

Sir Derek Rayner

Telegrams
Marsham London Telex.
Telephone: 01-935 4422

Michael House,
Baker Street,
London, W.1

PERSONAL

From Sir Derek Rayner

7th December 1982

Your 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 members 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.

*a your sincere
Derek Rayner*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister and First Lord of
The Treasury,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.



Govt Machinery

10 DOWNING STREET

Done

From the Principal Private Secretary

8 December 1982

Thank you for your letter of 7 December.

I am sending with this letter a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to your letter of 7 December. We do not propose to release this exchange of letters to the press.

I have forwarded the letters to the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of State for Social Services which you enclosed with your letter.

The Prime Minister has decided that, rather than circulate a minute to Ministers in charge of Departments about the new arrangements, she will announce them to the Cabinet tomorrow.

Sir Robert Armstrong has sent to you a copy of the press notice and notes for editors. Through my error, the notes for editors excluded the first three sentences of paragraph 7 which you suggested. I am arranging for these to be re-inserted.

B. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Derek Rayner.

P1. file

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Telegrams:
Marspanza London Telex
Telephone 01-935 4422

Michael House,
Baker Street,
London, W.1.

7 Dec. 1982

From Sir Derek Rayner

Dear Robin,

I enclose my letter of resignation
addressed to the Prime Minister. It is
worded as the revised draft you sent to me
under cover of your letter of 7th Sept.

If there are any further alterations
perhaps you would let me know and I will
send down a further revision.

Yours
Derek



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

6 December, 1982

PERSONAL

As we agreed in our conversation this morning, I enclose a copy of the draft letter for you to send to the Prime Minister.

E.E.R. BUTLER

Sir Derek Rayner