

Mr INGHAM

✓ ~~Mr Butler~~

LEADERSHIP OF THE RAYNER UNIT

1. If next Thursday's General Election does not produce a Conservative victory, we shall no doubt be informed - perhaps very quickly - about the future of the Rayner Unit.

2. If Mrs Thatcher does return to No 10, it seems probable that she will have some points in view about the future of Lord Rayner; a possible succession to him; and a possible succession to me, given that I shall be leaving Whitehall to take up an appointment with British Telecom next month.

3. The purpose of this minute is twofold, assuming a Conservative victory:

(1) To let you know that I have asked British Telecom to holdover for the time being any announcement about the fact that I am joining them, although they would like to be able to make at least an internal announcement in the course of the next few weeks.

(2) To let you know, also, that we have sketched out on a contingency basis press briefing concerning the future composition and work of the Unit.

4. Should I be absent on business when needed, Mr Beesley, the AS in the Rayner Unit, can cope with any queries which may be necessary at your end. I shall be back in Whitehall in mid-afternoon on Friday 10 June; in my office on Saturday morning 11 June; and then reachable at home over the weekend on 624 8691.

C PRIESTLEY

7 June 1983