



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown to the Prime Minister your minute of 14 June covering a draft letter to Mr. Middleton about the position of Lord Gowrie. The Prime Minister has commented that the penultimate paragraph goes a little beyond what you promised to Lord Gowrie; but, as you know, she has discussed it with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he is content with it subject to the substitution of "some Treasury meetings" for "some of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's meetings". I have also given a copy of the paragraph to the Lord President, who had it before him when he was having a discussion with Lord Cockfield. It was subsequently confirmed to me that the Lord President was content, subject to substituting "a spokesman on economic affairs" for "a Treasury spokesman".

With these amendments, the Prime Minister is content that you should write to Mr. Middleton in the terms suggested.

You told me that you would be making a further submission in due course about transfers of work between the Treasury and the MPO, and I have not, therefore, sought the Prime Minister's decision on the transfer mentioned in your submission on the machinery of government at the centre.

E. E. R. BUTLER

16 June, 1983