

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Chairman of BTG

The Prime Minister spoke last night to Lord Cockfield about Mr. Tebbit's recommendation of Mr. Leslie Pincott for the chairmanship of BTG. The Prime Minister said the Chairman would have two roles - to run down the NEB portfolio and to act as a broker between research institutions and industry in the transfer of technology. While she could see that Mr. Pincott fitted the bill for the first role, he did not appear to be sufficiently vigorous and enterprising for the second.

Lord Cockfield said he knew Mr. Pincott but had not worked with him. Pincott had come into the Price Commission when it was being run down. He shared the Prime Minister's assessment. He regarded Mr. Pincott as a capable and straightforward business administrator of the kind produced from the ESSO stable. But he was certainly not a high flyer.

The Prime Minister doubted whether anyone could fulfil the job specification, which was partly why she doubted whether there should be a BTG. She said she would talk further with Mr. Tebbit.

AT

27 October, 1983

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