



Ref. A083/3094

MR BARCLAY

You sought advice on the letter dated 21 October from Mr Trippier's Private Secretary seeking the agreement of the Prime Minister to the inclusion of his Minister on the Standstill List of the Royal Marines Reserve.

2. There is an established principle, reaffirmed explicitly in 1970, that Ministers may hold commissions in the reserve forces but only on the understanding that, if war broke out and they were still members of the Government, their services would be entirely at the disposal of the Prime Minister and that the forces should not feel free either to rely on them for any specific duties or to call them up. So long as Mr Trippier and the Royal Marines are aware, and accept that proviso - which has not proved an obstacle in similar cases in the past - there seems no reason to object to Mr Trippier being included in the Standstill List.

3. From Tom Cassidy's letter, it appears that Mr Trippier might be under the impression that his appointment precludes him from continuing on the Royal Marines Reserve List No 2. I suspect that if Mr Trippier wished to continue on this Reserve List rather than transfer to the Standstill List, it would be possible to work out arrangements so that this did not involve conflict with his position as a Minister. Certainly there are precedents involving the other reserve forces even though I am not aware of any concerning the Royal Marines. However, I understand that Mr Trippier feels that his diary commitments are likely to be such that he would not wish to remain on the Reserve List No 2 while he remains a Minister.

R P HATFIELD

31 October 1983



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 November 1983

Thank you for your letter of 21 October to Tim Flesher.

The Prime Minister would have no objection to Mr. Trippier being included in the Standstill List of the Royal Marines Reserve on the understanding that if war breaks out and he is a member of the Government, his services would be at the disposal of the Prime Minister. It follows that the Royal Marines would not necessarily be able either to rely on Mr. Trippier to perform specific services, or to call him up. I understand that this proviso is usual, and has not caused difficulty in the past, but perhaps you or Mr. Trippier could establish that the Royal Marines will accept it.

I am also advised that it might well be possible for Mr. Trippier to remain on the Royal Marines Reserve List No.2, rather than the Standstill List, if he so wished. It may be, however, that Mr. Trippier would prefer not to do so because of other commitments.

MR. D. BARCLAY

T. J. Cassidy, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State for Industry

Tim Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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CC Mr Hatfield

I should be grateful
for advice.

21 October 1983

SMS
21/10

John

Mr Trippier has asked me to seek the Prime Minister's agreement to his inclusion in the recently instituted Standstill List of the Royal Marines Reserve. He would be liable for call-out in an emergency but in accordance with his position as a Minister, he would not receive any remuneration whilst on the Standstill List.

Mr Trippier has been a serving officer in the Royal Marines Reserve for the past fifteen years, and currently holds the rank of Captain. Upon becoming a Member of Parliament in 1979 he transferred to the Royal Marines Reserve List No 2, which has a lower training commitment, and during this time he received remuneration only for periods of training. His appointment as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State prevented him from accepting any remuneration at all, and as a result it appeared that he would have to resign his Commission, since the RMR did not allow for this state of affairs. The new Standstill List, however, will accommodate reservists who are temporarily prevented from meeting the requirements of the other reserve lists.

Yours
T J Cassidy

T J CASSIDY
Private Secretary