



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

IN CONFIDENCE

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has been approached by the President of the Royal Society who has enquired on behalf of his Council whether the Prime Minister would be willing to allow her name to be recommended to the Society for election to the Fellowship this year. She would be elected under a statute which empowers the Council to recommend for such election persons who either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society. The Prime Minister has it in mind to accept this invitation, but to say in her reply that, in the event of a General Election being announced before the election process is complete, she would expect the election either to be deferred or suspended until after the Election period.

12/4/83
The Prime Minister has also been approached by the Treasurer of Grays Inn who has asked to be allowed to nominate her for election as a bencher. It is possible to make this election at any time during the dining terms, and the Prime Minister is minded to reply that she would be willing to be put forward for election during the November term.

Do you see any objection to the Prime Minister's accepting these invitations on the basis which I have described?

25 April 1983

Ref. A083/1299

MR BUTLER

Your minute of 25 April.

2. I confirm that I can see no objection whatever to the Prime Minister agreeing to be nominated for election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and as an Honorary Bencher of Grays Inn, and accepting these honours if elected. On the contrary, there is ample and respectable precedent for both appointments, and they seem to me to be entirely appropriate and fitting.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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9 May 1983