PRIME MINISTER

COO MX

## LORD STOCKTON

I spoke to the Lord President to see whether he could suggest an elder statesman who might be encouraged to rebut some of the criticisms of the Government made by Lord Stockton. He doubted whether anything could be done at short notice though would reflect. He thought however that several senior figures in the Party could be encouraged to speak up in the debate in the House of Lords next week.

I have asked Bernard to find out whether any members of the Government are appearing on radio or television over the weekend who might be encouraged to put the record straight without criticising Lord Stockton personally.

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C.D. Powell

9 November 1985