



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

RICHMOND YARD

I have shown the Prime Minister your note of 23 October in which you set out how you intend to carry out the work which was commissioned in my minute of 22 October. The Prime Minister is content with your proposals. She will decide nearer the time, when the papers are ready, whether she should chair a meeting of the new Ministerial Committee on the Allocation of Accommodation in Inner London.

The Prime Minister has also received a personal and confidential minute from the Secretary of State for Social Services which records his great concern about the treatment of DHSS regarding their accommodation. I attach a copy of his minute. (In view of its classification, it should not be shown to anyone outside the Cabinet Office).

The Prime Minister has studied the Secretary of State's minute with care, and has asked that the following action should be taken.

- (i) You should take DHSS's position fully into account in the review of the Whitehall estate underway;
- (ii) DHSS should be represented on the new Ministerial sub-committee on accommodation;
- (iii) The Department should also be represented on the Official Committee which supports the Ministerial sub-committee;
- (iv) On the Secretary of State's point about presentation of the decision on Richmond Yard, there will, so the Prime Minister understands, be no "presentation" of the decision as such. But the Prime Minister would want it to be made clear in any public statements about Whitehall accommodation that the needs of DHSS are being given full consideration.

I have written to the DHSS informing them about the Prime Minister's reaction to their Secretary of State's minute.

N.L.W.

N. L. Wicks

27 October 1986



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Sir Crispin Tickell KCVO
Permanent Secretary

28 October 1986

All Members of Staff

RICHMOND YARD

I am happy to be able to tell you that the last minute problems about which I told you on 21 July have now been resolved. The ODA's London Headquarters will move from Eland House to Richmond Yard in the second half of 1987. We shall now press ahead with the necessary arrangements, and we shall resume the series of newsletters giving details.



Crispin Tickell