

Gov Mach 8-1P

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I was very grateful for your minute of 18 October about the date of announcement of Sir Derek Rayner's resignation as leader of the Rayner Unit.

I have been in touch with Sir Derek Rayner's office, and gather that he returns from abroad next Monday, 1 November. I will then discuss with him the date of an announcement, which will probably be in the following week.

May I ask the help of the MPO in preparing a Press Notice? I suggest that the formal announcement should follow closely the words of Sir Derek Rayner's letter, but we will need an extensive note for Editors covering both a summary of the achievements of Sir Derek Rayner and his Unit and a description about the arrangements following Sir Derek Rayner's withdrawal.

We may also want to publish the letters exchanged between Sir Derek Rayner and the Prime Minister, and I will consult you separately on the terms in which the Prime Minister might reply to Sir Derek Rayner's letter.

B/F | Could I ask you to have the preparation of a Press Notice put in hand. If it were possible to let me have a draft by the end of this week, so that I could have it when I discuss the arrangements with Sir Derek Rayner, I should be very grateful.

F.R.B.

26 October 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Personal

*Papers please
about the interview
of Sir D. Rayner;
with-*

Ref. A09791

MR BUTLER

With your minute of 13 October you sent me a copy of Sir Derek Rayner's letter of the same date.

2. Mr Cassels has decided to put in an application for the post of Director General at the National Economic Development Council, which was advertised 10 days ago. I understand that interviews for the appointment are expected to take place in the second half of November. We shall not know, therefore, whether Mr Cassels' application has been successful until somewhere about the end of next month. I have been in touch with Sir Douglas Wass, but I am afraid that I see no chance of speeding up that process. I do not think that it would be reasonable to ask Sir Derek Rayner to wait to send his letter until the end of November. For my part, therefore, I should be content if Sir Derek Rayner sent his letter shortly after his return from the Far East at the end of this month, even though we should have unfinished business to complete at our end.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18 October 1982