



Ref. A082/0368

MR BUTLER

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Thank you for your minute of 2nd December about the press notice announcing Sir Derek Rayner's withdrawal.

The press notice as now drafted will not quite do, since the use of the word "leadership" in paragraph 3, after it has been used in relation to Sir Derek Rayner himself in paragraph 1, will seem to imply that Mr Priestley is in effect taking over the position which Sir Derek Rayner has held. I suggest that the third paragraph should be amended to read:

The Unit will continue to operate under the direction of Mr Clive Priestley who has assisted Sir Derek Rayner in the work of the Unit since its inception in May 1979.

3. We should make it clear in the notes that Mr Priestley has since April 1982 also been in charge of the management and efficiency divisions of the Management and Personnel Office. I therefore suggest that paragraph 10 should be redrafted to read as follows:

*I have discussed this with Sir Derek Rayner, who supports this suggestion:*

10. Sir Derek Rayner has been assisted by Mr Clive Priestley who, since April 1982, has also been in charge of the management and efficiency divisions of the Management and Personnel Office. Mr Priestley will continue to be in charge of the work of the Rayner Unit.

4. If you agree, I will let the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Derek Rayner see the press notice and notes for editors as so revised.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

3rd December 1982