

MR. BUTLER

PRIME MINISTER

CHAIRMANSHIP OF J.I.C.

One possible candidate - Sir Percy Cradock.

Obviously he cannot leave Peking now. On the other hand he cannot stay forever. He is, I believe, due to retire in late 1983. He would doubtless stay on for a while if you wanted him to but one way or another will probably leave in a year or so.

If you decide to appoint an interim Chairman, then Percy Cradock could be good later as a permanent Chairman:-

- (a) He has a penetrating and original mind (you will recall Hugh Thomas's comments). He has good judgement and keeps his head.
- (b) He is no respecter of conventional wisdom.
- (c) He was Head of the Assessments Staff around 1971-3 and is thus one of the few people who have been engaged professionally in the task of assessment. I think that experience made him well aware of the defects of the JIC.
- (d) Before that he was head of the FCO Planning Staff.
- (e) He is an expert on China, also on Communism more generally (he was Ambassador in East Germany), knows the Middle East - and because of (c) and (d) above is used to looking at problems world-wide.

I have not the slightest idea whether he would be interested.

I have discussed with Tony Parsons who thinks this worth considering.

A. J. C.

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