

MR. FLESHER

Strategy Meetings: Chequers

Could you kindly keep an eye on these during my leave.

I attach a copy of my letter of 22 July to Brian Fall.

Meeting with academic experts

In consultation with Mr. Michael Kaser (St. Antony's College, Oxford, tel. 59651 or 55581) I have invited seven other academic experts to attend. Acceptances and refusals are coming in. We need a total of 8, including Kaser, and if we have not reached it by the time I go on leave you could agree with him any substitutes and send them letters of invitation on the lines of those I have already sent out.

Mr. Kaser is organising the academic content of the meeting i.e. suggesting topics to the participants, commissioning 5 page papers etc. I have asked him to let us have the papers by 20 August. We should then distribute copies to all participants, including those from Whitehall. The Prime Minister should have copies to read in Scotland.

Each participant should also be sent a note as soon as possible in August about the administrative arrangements which are our responsibility. I attach a minute by Kay Dover which is relevant.

We should book rooms soon at a suitable hotel near Chequers for all the academic experts for the night of 7/8 September. We should either indicate how they may reach the hotel by public transport or provide cars to take them there from London. Cars should be available for them on the morning of 8 September to bring them to Chequers from the hotel - and after lunch to take them to London or wherever else, within reason, that they wish to go.

I have so far told Chequers nothing about the arrangements. Could you do so? My letter to Brian Fall shows who will be present for the 2 lunches. Robin and I will stay at Chequers on the night of 8/9 September. I may go there for the night of 7/8 September.

Other meetings

See the annex to my letter. I expect others will make bids for participation. The Prime Minister has strong views. Please try to stick to my list.

The FCO are preparing papers for the internal meetings. They of course should not be distributed to the academics. Again the Prime Minister should have copies to take to Scotland.

N.B. The press must not get to hear of these meetings.

A.S.C.

26 July 1983