



10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

FOR ECONOMIC SUMMITS

The Prime Minister has appointed Mr. Nigel Wicks, C.B.E., her Principal Private Secretary, as her Personal Representative for Economic Summits.

20 January 1988

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Mr Wicks succeeds Sir Robert Armstrong, G.C.B., C.V.O. who retired as head of the Civil Service and Cabinet Secretary on 31 December 1987.
2. The Personal Representatives ('Sherpas') help to prepare the discussion at the Summits on behalf of each of the Summit participants. The next Summit takes place in Toronto between 19-21 June 1988.

Telephone 01-930 4433

BACKGROUND NOTES

Mr. Wicks is 47. He was educated at Beckenham and Penge Grammar School, Portsmouth College of Technology and at the Universities of Cambridge and London. He worked for the British Petroleum Co. Ltd. before joining the Treasury in 1968 as an Assistant Principal. He has filled a number of posts in the Treasury involved with, for example, public expenditure, the Community Budget, financial institutions and energy. He was a Private Secretary to the Prime Minister between 1975 and 1978. He then rejoined the Treasury as Head of Energy Division. He was Economic Minister, British Embassy Washington and the United Kingdom Executive Director, IMF and World Bank between 1983 and 1985. Since then he has been Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

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MR. INGHAM

Herewith the draft Press Notice and supporting material regarding the appointment of the UK Sherpa.

N. L. WICKS

20 January 1988

P R E S S N O T I C E

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DRAFT Q AND A BRIEF FOR PRESS NOTICE

1. WHY MR. WICKS?

Mr. Wicks has had long experience of Treasury work before he came to No. 10, including over 2 years as United Kingdom Executive Director on the Boards of IMF and World Bank in Washington, and Minister Economic in the British Embassy, Washington. Obviously he, as Principal Private Secretary, works closely with the Prime Minister. So he is well qualified for the job both by experience and by his present position.

2. MR. WICKS IS ONLY A GRADE 2; DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POST HAS BEEN REDUCED?

No; the functions of the post and its importance remain unchanged.

3. THE FORMER HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND CABINET SECRETARY, SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG HAD BEEN THE U.K. SHERPA. WHY DID NOT THE NEW CABINET SECRETARY AND HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, SIR ROBIN BUTLER, ASSUME THE POST?

With the Prime Minister's support, Sir Robin Butler wants to give priority to his other responsibilities, particularly as Head of the Home Civil Service.

4. IS IT NOT UNUSUAL FOR SOMEONE FROM THE NO. 10 PRIVATE OFFICE TO BE THE SHERPA?

There have been only 2 Sherpas before Mr. Wicks. There cannot really said to be any settled practice about who should fill the post. Mr. Wicks is clearly well qualified for the post. (See 1. above).

5. IS IT NOT WRONG IN PRINCIPLE FOR SOMEONE FROM A PRIVATE OFFICE TO FILL THE POST?

No; the important point is that the Sherpa is well qualified and well placed to do the job.

6. IS NOT THIS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF MRS. THATCHER EXTENDING HER PERSONAL CONTROL OVER THE WHITEHALL BUREAUCRACY?

No. Mr. Wicks is well qualified for the post, and that is what mattered.

7. SHOULD NOT THE TREASURY OR THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE PROVIDED THE SHERPA?

No reason why this should necessarily be the case. Mr. Wicks will work closely with the Treasury, the Foreign Office and other departments. The Personal Representative should have good contacts with the Prime Minister.

8. WILL MR. WICKS RETAIN THE POST WHEN HE LEAVES NO. 10?

Remains to be seen.

9. WILL NO. 10 TAKE ON ADDITIONAL STAFF TO COMPENSATE FOR THE EXTRA WORK MR. WICKS IS ASSUMING?

No; much of the work takes place over weekends.

10. WHO WERE PREVIOUS U.K. SHERPAS?

Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir John Hunt (now Lord Hunt of Tamworth .

11. WHO ARE OTHER COUNTRIES' SHERPAS AND WHAT ARE THEIR POSITION?

The other Sherpas and their posts are:

Canada	Mrs. Sylvia Ostry	Ambassador for Multi-Lateral Trade Negotiations
USA	Mr. Alan Wallis	Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, State Department
France	M. Jacques Attali	Special Adviser to the President
W Germany	Hans Tietmeyer	Official State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance
Italy	Mario Sarcinelli	Director General, Treasury
Japan	Hiroshi Kitamura	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
EEC Brussels	Pascal Lamy	Chef de Cabinet of the President

12. HOW MANY TIMES DO THE SHERPAS MEET EACH YEAR

Some three or four times.

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Ref. A088/213

MR WICKS

cc Mr Ingham

Sherpa

Thank you for your minute of 19 January to Sir Robin Butler. Sir Robin Butler is content with the material attached to it for use in connection with the announcement on the Sherpa appointment but has suggested the following additional sentence which might be included after the first sentence of the answer to question 7: "The Personal Representative should have good contacts with the Prime Minister".

2. Sir Robin Butler has suggested the following as an answer to question 3: "With the Prime Minister's support, Sir Robin Butler wants to give priority to his other responsibilities, particularly as Head of the Home Civil Service."

3. There was only one United Kingdom Sherpa before Sir Robert Armstrong - Sir John Hunt.

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Japan	Hiroshi Kitamura	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
EEC Brussels	Pascal Lamy	Chef de Cabinet of the President



5. Sir Robin Butler has no further questions to propose for inclusion in the question and answer brief.

Traver Woolley

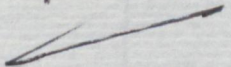
T A WOOLLEY
PS/Sir Robin Butler

20 January 1988

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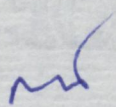
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PRIME MINISTER

You should know that we will issue a Press Notice at 1700 hours tomorrow announcing that I will be the next Sherpa. The time is determined by the courtesy of letting the other Sherpas know first.

N.L.W.



N. L. Wicks

19 January 1988

D R A F T P R E S S N O T I C E

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{F.E.R.B. to draft}

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{To come}.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

SHERPA

I should be glad to know that you and Mr. Ingham are content with the material attached for use in connection with the announcement of the Sherpa.

Bf. // Could you please let me have the answer to Question 2; and could your office confirm the names of the previous UK Sherpas, and let me know the names of the six other Sherpas now in office.

Finally, could both you and Mr. Ingham let me know whether there are any further questions which should be included in the Q & A brief.

N. L. Wicks

19 January 1988

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{To come}.

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~~Mr Wicks~~

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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A088/189

19 January 1988

Dear Patrick,

Since the appointment of Nigel Wicks as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative at the Economic Summit will undoubtedly become known, it seems best that we should formally announce it. I suggest that we do this by means of a press notice by No 10 at 5.00 pm tomorrow afternoon. I suggest that the Personal Representatives of the other six Summit countries should be informed by means of a personal message from me to Mrs Ostry which I would send by signal tomorrow morning to be passed on --- by the posts concerned. I attach a draft telegram to this end on which I should welcome your comments and those of Peter Middleton and Nigel Wicks during the course of today.

I am copying this letter to Peter Middleton and Nigel Wicks.

Yours ever,

Robin

Sir Patrick Wright KCMG

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DRAFT TELEGRAM

TO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA, WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, ROME, TOKYO AND
BRUSSELS

FROM CABINET OFFICE

An announcement that Nigel Wicks is to be the UK Sherpa for the ~~Toronto~~ Economic Summit will be made by No 10 at 1700Z today. In advance of this (except for Tokyo, where it may not be practicable) could you please convey to the Sherpa of your host country the following message from Sir Robin Butler to Mrs Ostry:

"Dear Mrs Ostry,

I am writing to tell you that the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has appointed Mr Nigel Wicks, her Principal Private Secretary, as her Personal Representative for the ~~Toronto~~ Economic Summit in succession to Sir Robert Armstrong. Mr Wicks has been Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister since 1985 and was formerly Private Secretary to the then Prime Ministers from 1975 to 1978. As Principal Private Secretary he attended the 1986 Economic Summit. He has spent most of his career in the UK Treasury with periods as Economic Minister, British Embassy, Washington and UK Executive Director, IMF. This appointment will become public in London at 5.00 pm London time today.

I am copying this message to the other Personal Representatives.

Yours sincerely

Robin Butler"