

PRIME MINISTER

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARTS COUNCIL

1. Paul Channon telephoned this morning.
2. The present Chairman of the Arts Council, Kenneth Robinson, will be retiring in March 1982.
3. As you know, Alistair McAlpine is a Member of the Arts Council, and Paul would like to appoint him to succeed Kenneth Robinson. Although the appointment would not take effect until March 1982, Paul would like to make the announcement in September 1981.
4. The Chairmanship of the Arts Council is an unpaid post, but it takes about two days a week.
5. I know that Alistair would like to do the job. However, in Paul's view, he could not remain as Joint Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of our Party, if he was also Chairman of the Arts Council.
6. If Alistair is not appointed, then Paul has in mind to appoint John Sainsbury (Tim's Brother), whom Paul thinks would be excellent. John Sainsbury is not, at present, a Member of the Arts Council, but Paul has in mind to make something of a clean sweep of the existing Members, most of whom are useless.

14th May 1981

IAN GOW

7. WE SHOULD, I THINK, DISCUSS THIS WITH
PETER S.

Strictly Private
& Confidential

26th June, 1981

Chairmanship of the Arts Council

The Prime Minister agrees that it would not be possible for Alistair McAlpine to become Chairman of the Arts Council, while remaining Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of our Party.

The Prime Minister wants to retain Alistair in those posts.

It would not, therefore, be appropriate to invite Alistair to become Chairman of the Arts Council.

Itake it that you will now be making a formal submission to the Prime Minister with the name of John Sainsbury.

Do please have a word about this, if you would like to do so.

IAN GOW

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