



*Please copy to Mr.  
Ingham & file*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
01-233 3000

11 April 1983

F E R Butler Esq.  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

*Dear R.D.M.,*

**SPECIAL ADVISERS**

You wrote to me on 23 March about William Hague. You will be aware of the arrangement which has since been negotiated, with the Prime Minister's agreement, for him to be taken on to the strength of the Conservative Research Department.

Rumours about Hague's future reached the press a couple of weeks ago, and press interest could conceivably be revived by the news that Robin Harris has been selected as a Parliamentary candidate, and that his departure, coming - quite coincidentally, of course - close after Douglas French's, means that we are shedding two Special Advisers. We would not of course wish to stimulate such interest, but it has occurred to us that Press Offices ought perhaps . . . to have some guidance, and I attach a note which you might like to pass to Bernard Ingham.

Copies of this letter and the note go to Peter Cropper at Conservative Central Office and - though the points it covers seem unlikely to come up in the House - to David Heyhoe in the Lord President's Office.

*Yours ever,  
J O Kerr*

J O KERR  
Principal Private Secretary

## **WILLIAM HAGUE, ROBIN HARRIS AND DOUGLAS FRENCH**

### 1. WILLIAM HAGUE

Recent articles in the Times and Sunday Times have asserted that William Hague has been or is to be appointed a Special Adviser at the Treasury, and it is possible that there will be further questions from the Press about him from time to time. These reports are incorrect, and you may find it helpful to draw on the following notes in response to further queries about him.

#### Line to take

Mr Hague has not been appointed a Special Adviser, but is being employed temporarily by the Conservative Research Department at Central Office. All enquiries about him are being handled by Central Office Press Department.

#### Background (not for use)

Mr Hague will be working on the economic side in the Conservative Research Department, in which capacity he will undertake work for Treasury Ministers from time to time, as do other Research Department officers for Ministers.

### 2. ROBIN HARRIS

Following his selection as prospective Parliamentary candidate for Tooting, Mr Harris is resigning from the post of Special Adviser on 15 April, and will be returning thereafter to the economic side of the Conservative Research Department.

### 3. DOUGLAS FRENCH

Mr French resigned from the post of Special Adviser on 31 March in order to return to his business.

### 4. SPECIAL ADVISERS

Neither Mr Harris nor Mr French is being replaced. This leaves Adam Ridley as the sole remaining Treasury Special Adviser.

