

MA
7/2

Michael Alison

I have taken up
X/ with the FCO private office who
will identify and remove the obstacle. Let
me know if you hear of any more
difficulties.

Michael Alison

Tena: pl. remind ^{FCS} bringing up
for next Monday Chief Whip mtg. 6.2.

Two points which you may like to raise with the Prime Minister and the Chief Whip if you are able to do so privately on Monday:-

1. Whether, now that David Wolfson is moving to only one day a week (albeit Monday) I should now attend these meetings.
2. The Party Chairman now appears on many TV and radio programmes and often requires briefing from Departments. Briefing from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office presents a problem:-

X { As John is not a Privy Councillor, they cannot send him the material they would easily send to a Cabinet Minister.

I understand, on the grapevine, that this is presenting problems.

In fact this came to me via John Houston, Geoffrey Howe's Special Adviser.

It may be something that you would like to raise with the Prime Minister and Chief Whip in case there are wider problems presented by the Chairman not being a Privy Councillor.



STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

16.12.83