



PM/82/95

THE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

Agree to Mr

Pym's proposal?

Yes

JP

s/n

Transfer of Ministerial Responsibility for Staff of the Directorate
of Overseas Surveys

1. Following the recommendations of the Rayner Scrutiny of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS), Michael Heseltine and I have agreed, subject to your approval, that the reduced staff complement of the ODS should be transferred to form a new Overseas Directorate of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton and that there should be phased implementation of the move commencing 2 April 1984 with completion by March 1985. The Directorate of Overseas Surveys, as such, will cease to exist in March 1985.
/ Details of the arrangements are summarised in the attached background note.

2. If you agree, I suggest that the transfer of Ministerial responsibility could be announced by means of an arranged
/ Parliamentary Answer, on the lines of the attached draft.

3. I am sending copies of this minute and the attachments to Michael Heseltine and Janet Young.

(FRANCIS PYM)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

4 November 1982



BACKGROUND NOTE ON DOS

The Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS) was the subject of a detailed scrutiny under the guidance of Sir Derek Rayner in 1980. The main recommendations of the Scrutiny Report were that

- a. the separate existence of DOS should be brought to an end and that its functions and staff complement should be reduced, and
 - b. that a smaller-scale mapping service for developing countries should be retained within the public sector, ideally as a new Overseas Directorate of the Ordnance Survey (OS) at Southampton, with the more standard aid financed map production contracted out to the private sector, the contracts prepared and supervised by the new Overseas Directorate.
2. The Minister for Overseas Development subsequently proposed, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for the Environment, to establish an Overseas Directorate within the OS at Southampton by April 1984 with a phased implementation leading to a final closedown of DOS operations at Tolworth by March 1985. This proposal was endorsed by Sir Derek Rayner. An earlier implementation date would lead to extra expense because of existing DOS contract commitments. (If DOS staff were prevented from completing this work there could well be criticism on the grounds that the Government would effectively be paying for work twice via redundancy payments to DOS staff and to private contractors.)
3. The Secretary of State for the Environment has now approved the proposed merger and the transfer to OS on 2 April 1984 of all the DOS manpower, including some temporarily working at Tolworth, who are to form the final agreed complement of the new Overseas Directorate. The precise number of staff to be transferred to the OS has yet to be decided but it will certainly not exceed the estimate of about 130 envisaged in the Scrutiny Report. The work done by OS for ODA will be on the basis of full cost recovery from the aid programme. It should be noted that some residual DOS staff will remain on ODA's complement in 1984-85: they will be working on contracts for ODA and by April 1985 these posts will be given up.
4. An action Plan for the implementation of the Scrutiny recommendations has been prepared and a copy sent to Sir Derek Rayner.



DRAFT WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Responsibilities

Q. To ask the Prime Minister which government department has responsibility for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys.

A. The Directorate of Overseas Surveys is at present a Special Unit of the Overseas Development Administration and is located at Tolworth. On 8 July 1981 my Right Honourable Friend the Minister for Overseas Development announced the acceptance of the main recommendations in the scrutiny report for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. In implementing those decisions it has been decided that the functions and complement of the reduced Directorate will be transferred to the Ordnance Survey at Southampton. Some work will be contracted out to the private sector. The phased implementation of the move will commence on 2 April 1984 and will be completed by March 1985. This phasing will facilitate work at Tolworth on existing contract commitments. With the objective of assisting developing countries and British dependencies with survey and mapping needs, the Ordnance Survey will provide advice to the Overseas Development Administration, supervise overseas contracts with the private sector, conduct surveys and mapping of less straightforward projects, undertake training and be a source of information to overseas governments and the UK private sector. The costs of these activities as agreed by, and on behalf of, the Overseas Development Administration will be met on the basis of full costs from the aid programme. With effect from 2 April 1984 Ministerial responsibility for the staff to be transferred will pass from my Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to my Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Stet

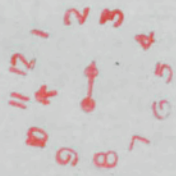
~~will be established as an Overseas Directorate~~ ^{Directorate}

* I should like to pay tribute to the hard work of the Directorate

Govt Mach, Ranger, Pt 12



-4 NOV 1982





MR RICKETT

cc Mr Board
Miss Bacon
Mr Hatfield

TRANSFER OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STAFF OF THE DIRECTORATE
OF OVERSEAS SURVEYS

We spoke about the draft arranged PQ suggested by the Foreign Secretary in his minute of 4 November. I would like to propose two small changes in the answer:

- (1) Amend line 6 to read:

"... of the reduced Directorate will be established as an Overseas Directorate of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton."

(This to underline the continuation of an identifiable unit.)

- (2) Break line 9 after "... contract commitments." and start a new paragraph with: "I should like to pay tribute to the hard work by the staff of the Directorate. With the objective ..."

(This to give proper recognition that their work is valued even though the Directorate is to be somewhat smaller.)

I
B

IAN B BEESLEY

9 November 1982



GOVERNMENT
MAIL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Mr. Hatfield

Thank you for your minute of 8 November to Robin Butler about the transfer of Ministerial responsibility for the staff of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. The Prime Minister has agreed to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's proposal, and I have written to his Office accordingly.

TTF

9 November, 1982.

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File



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 November 1982

The Prime Minister has now seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 4 November about Ministerial responsibility for the staff of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. She has agreed to Mr. Pym's proposal that the staff complement of the DOS should be transferred to form a new Overseas Directorate of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton on the timescale proposed. She has further agreed that this transfer of Ministerial responsibility should be announced by means of an arranged Parliamentary Question along the lines proposed.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Edmonds (Department of the Environment) and Mary Brown (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

Timothy Flesher

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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GP
Scer
HN

Ref. A082/0032

MR BUTLER

Transfer of Ministerial Responsibility for Staff of
Directorate of Overseas Surveys

Sir Robert Armstrong has seen the minute of 4 November from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary proposing the transfer of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys from the Overseas Development Administration to the Ordnance Survey. *with TF/FERO?*

2. Sir Robert notes that this implements a recommendation of a Rayner Review, and considers that it is also sensible in machinery of Government terms in allowing the concentration of civilian surveying expertise into one Department. He therefore recommends to the Prime Minister that she should approve this proposal.

R4

R P HATFIELD

8 November 1982

Govt Mach, Raynes, Pt 12



COMMISSIONER