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John. Please copy to Herb's for circulation to all their staff

cc Bill Heon
Ashley Ryan
David Carson
Mike Maxwell
HCS/412/97 29/5

cc. Mr Mitchell
Mr McCune 29/5/97
Mrs Tate
To see + circulate
please. ARR
29.5.97

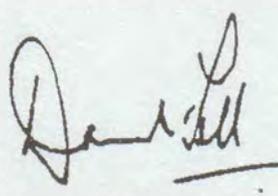
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FROM: SIR DAVID FELL
19 MAY 1997

cc Mr Watkins

NI PERMANENT SECRETARIES

1. The Prime Minister has written to Sir Robin Butler expressing his appreciation and thanks for the professionalism of the Civil Service towards the new Government. I attach a copy of his letter.
2. For my part, I would like to add my warmest personal thanks to those of the Prime Minister for the hard work that was put in by many members of staff, both in the run-up to the General Election, especially in the preparation of first-class, first-day briefing, and since then. This, together with the seamless manner in which Departments facilitated and received the arrival of the new Ministers, has deeply impressed the Secretary of State and colleagues.
3. This is, I know, typical of the commitment that staff throughout Departments have always demonstrated, and to which I wish to pay a heartfelt tribute.



DAVID FELL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MINUTE

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

After one week in Government I wanted to write to you to express my *gratitude* for the quite superlative way in which the Civil Service have handled the first change of Government in this country for 18 years.

I and all my colleagues have all been *deeply impressed* by the way *staff were ready* to work through the Bank Holiday weekend in order to help us make a rapid start in implementing our programme. And we have all been *grateful* for the professional way in which this has been done: my *experience* is that staff at all levels have worked constructively and with good humour, while at the same time being willing to speak frankly where they felt *that necessary*. I want that to continue. I am *determined* to push ahead with the policies on which we were elected, but I expect the Civil Service to give Ministers their best advice on how those policies should be implemented.

This Government has a deep commitment to public service as an honourable profession, and we want to sustain and build up the tradition of a professional and impartial Civil Service. We will do all we can to support the ethos of public service.

I would be *grateful* if you could pass on these thanks to your Permanent Secretary colleagues, and if they in turn could pass them on to their staff.

Tony Blair