

RESTRICTED

From: JOHN HOLMES

Date: 3 December 1996

PRIME MINISTER

ROBERT MCCARTNEY MP

As you know, McCartney has been pressing to see you for almost two weeks now. We have been battling his office away on diary grounds. I have had little compunction in doing so given McCartney's attitudes and consistently unhelpful statements.

However, we have probably taken this as far as we can, and now need to decide whether you are prepared to see him. At the end of the day, I do not think you can say no. You could fit him in after Questions on Thursday, or perhaps next Tuesday. If you are prepared to do so, we can try and limit the time available so that he cannot go on endlessly.

Content for us to look for a suitable time after PMQs on Thursday/next Tuesday with a cast iron exit strategy?

JOHN HOLMES

fimccart.kk

RESTRICTED