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THE RT. HON. GEOFFREY RIPPON, Q.C., M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Rippon was given charge of Britain's negotiations with the European Economic Community (the Common Market) on July 28, 1970, when he was appointed to the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. His appointment was one of the changes that followed the death of Mr. Iain Macleod, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, only a few weeks after Mr. Edward Heath had formed his new Government in June. From June 20, Mr. Rippon's post had been that of Minister of Technology.

Mr. Rippon is Conservative Member of Parliament for Hexham. While his party was in Opposition he was a member of the "Shadow Cabinet" with responsibilities for housing and land and later for defense. He served in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's Cabinet as Minister of Public Building and Works from October 1963 to October 1964 and had held various ministerial posts before that.

Born in May 1924, Mr. Rippon graduated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he was an exhibitioner. After leaving Oxford he took his Bar examination, was a Prizeman of the Middle Temple, and was called in 1948. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1964.

As an undergraduate at Oxford Mr. Rippon was secretary and librarian of the Union, President of the University Conservative Association, and Chairman of the Federation of University Conservative and Unionist Associations, which he was instrumental in reviving.

Both before and after entering Parliament Mr. Rippon was engaged in local government. He was a member of the Surbiton Borough Council at the age of 21, serving from 1945 to 1954; he became an Alderman in 1949, and at the age of 26 was elected Mayor for the year 1951 to 1952. He represented Chelsea on the former London County Council from 1952 to 1961, and before joining the Conservative Government was leader of the Opposition on the Council. He is Joint President of the British sections of the

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of European Municipalities and the Council of Commonwealth Municipalities.

Mr. Rippon was first elected to Parliament in 1955 as M.P. for Norwich, South. Before receiving his first ministerial appointment he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr. Duncan Sandys when the latter was Minister of Housing and Local Government and subsequently Minister of Defence.

In October 1959 Mr. Rippon became Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Aviation, and two years later, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. He received a full ministerial appointment in July 1962 as Minister of Public Building and Works, and was created a Privy Councillor; he joined the Cabinet the following year.

He lost his seat in the 1964 General Election, but returned to the House of Commons in 1966 as M.P. for Hexham, being at once appointed to the Shadow Cabinet as chief Opposition spokesman on housing and land.

Mr. Rippon, who has traveled widely in Europe, America and the Middle and Far East, takes a great interest in international affairs. He is the leader of the Conservative Party's delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union.

He is co-author of Forward from Victory, published by Faber and Faber in 1943, and has written two booklets on the Rent Act and various pamphlets and articles, including Britain's World Role, Right Angle and (co-author) Target for Homes.

He married Miss Ann York in 1946 and has one son and three daughters.

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