

PO - CH / NL / 0376
PART A

Part A.

CONFIDENTIAL

(Circulate under cover and
notify REGISTRY of movement)

Begins: 5/9/89.
Ends: 6/9/89.



PO -CH /NL/0376



PART A

Chancellor's (Lawson) Papers:

**PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW
MILLENNIUM**

DD's: 25 Years

Lawson

6/12/95.

NL/0376

-CH

PO

PART A

CH/EXCHEQUER <i>usp</i>	
REC.	5 SEP 1989
ACTION	SIR. P. Middleton
COPIES TO	



10 DOWNING STREET

RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED

5/9/89.

*Manjiv's
Cnls (x last)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN LETTER

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 September 1989

Re John.

THE MILLENIUM

The Prime Minister has been giving some thought to the way in which Britain might prepare itself for the Millenium. In particular, she is considering making a statement towards the end of the year, possibly in her speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, suggesting that the Government might set itself some targets to be achieved by the year 2000. At the same time, a Millenium Commission might be established, possibly under the chairmanship of the Prince of Wales, which would invite organisations and communities to propose objectives for themselves. There would be a series of awards, along the lines of the Queen's Award for Industry, to those carrying out the most successful projects.

Before carrying this work forward, which will need to be discussed with a wider group of colleagues, the Prime Minister would like to discuss the issues with the Chancellor. She proposes to raise it at the end of tomorrow morning's meeting on EMS/EMU.

I enclose four notes which have been prepared by Sir Robin Butler after consultation with Permanent Secretaries (including Sir Peter Middleton):

- the draft of a note which might be sent to the Prince of Wales;
- a list of possible Government objectives;
- suggestions for major projects in capital cities;
- a suggestion for an Exhibition.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2

On the Government objectives, the aim has been to find worth-while targets which, as far as possible, avoid the commitment of substantial new public resources.

I am copying this letter to Trevor Woolley in Sir Robin Butler's Office. For the time being please could you ensure that this letter is shown only to Sir Peter Middleton's office.

*Your sincerely
Andrew*

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

John Gieve, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

CONFIDENTIAL

Preparing for the Third Millennium

1. The year 2000, representing the end of the current millennium and the gateway to the next, will be ten years away at the end of this year. It represents a significant milestone in the Christian calendar and a suitable date for targets relating to improvements in national and international life. The Prime Minister is considering a proposition that the Government should set some targets for itself and invite others in the population of the United Kingdom to set targets for themselves to achieve over the next ten years.

2. It is envisaged that some Government targets would be announced by the Prime Minister in a speech in the autumn, probably the speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in the Guildhall. These need not be a final or comprehensive set of Government objectives for the millennium. It would, of course, be open to the Government, or future Governments, to modify the objectives and announce new ones.

3. The task of encouraging, registering and marking the achievement of targets by others in the population would be the task of a Millennium Commission, which would be announced at the same time. The Commission would not be concerned with, or involved in, the Government's own objectives.

4. It is envisaged that projects could be prepared and registered with the Commission by any institutions, organisations or groups of individuals. They could be at national, community or even street level. Their registration would not carry any implication of entitlement to Government or other assistance under any schemes applying to them. Nor would the registration of the schemes cover any implicit approval by the Commission, although the Commission would have complete discretion not to register projects which appear facetious, illegal or politically tendentious.

*(Can you
be white -)*

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Members of the Commission would be a group of energetic people young enough to be regarded as having a stake in the next century. They would be chosen on an individual, not a representative basis: the criterion would be that they should be the sort of people who could encourage projects from all sections of the community. If the Prince of Wales agrees to act as Chairman of the Commission, it would be appropriate to appoint a Chief Executive, probably on a part-time basis. The Commission would be supported by a small office staffed by the Civil Service on the lines of The Queen's Award for Industry office. The Chief Executive should receive a salary: the members of the Commission would serve on a voluntary basis but would have expenses reimbursed.

6. The tasks of the Commission would be:-

i. To encourage the establishment and submission of projects from all sections of the population and in all parts of the country.

ii. To register, on the basis set out above, those projects which appeared to them worthwhile and realistic. The Commission would have discretion in this, although it would be expected to avoid political controversy.

iii. To consider and recommend to the Government ways in which the achievement of projects could be marked. One obvious way is the award of a plaque, on the lines of The Queen's Award for industry. But the Commission would be able to recommend other ways.

iv. To consider and recommend to the Government ways in which interest in the scheme could be sustained. For example, qualifying projects need not take until the year 2000 to achieve. Awards could be made to projects during the intervening period, perhaps in an annual list. There would be advantage in announcing each year a selection of schemes registered with the Commission during that year to encourage others.

CONFIDENTIAL

7. The Commission would have a budget to cover its administrative expenses, of which the size would be annually negotiated with the Government. It would not be able to assist individual projects financially. Any advice which the Commission wished to give to the Government would be given privately.

8. Members of the Commission would be appointed for terms of three years at a time, but these terms could be renewed.

+ Reference to 'show-piece' projects in capitals.

CONFIDENTIAL

Possible Government Objectives for the Year 2000

Terrorism

1. A general agreement, possibly under the auspices of the United Nations, on legal sanctions against hijacking and other forms of terrorism, which all countries agree to adopt.

Human Rights

2. The establishment of a human rights forum covering Eastern as well as Western Europe with access by individuals and the acceptance of specific standards.

Defence

3. Deterrence sustained at significantly lower levels of nuclear armament; elimination of capacity for surprise attack and large scale invasion in Europe; global ban on chemical weapons; major items of European defence equipment to be procured collectively and to be inter-operable.

Education

4. i. At least 50% of 16 year olds in the United Kingdom to achieve the standard of performance in 5 subjects (including one foreign language) which is now achieved by those gaining grades A to C in GCSE.

ii. At least 50% of all 19 year olds to have achieved a qualification of the standard of A level or the BTEC National Diploma.

Cost? | iii. To increase by 50% to 1.5 million the number of students in higher education.

iv. Virtually everyone to have achieved by age 25 a foundation of knowledge and skills (at National Vocational Qualification level 2 or equivalent).

Health

5. i. In line with the WHO's objectives for the European region, to eradicate measles, rubella and whooping cough in the United Kingdom; to reduce smoking by 35% and alcohol consumption by 25%; to reduce by 15% mortality by circulatory diseases in those under 65 and to achieve a similar reduction in deaths through cancer.

ii. To tackle the problem of dementia among the elderly by research and the development of good practice in medical, nursing and social care.

Environment

6. i. To achieve a set of international agreements on global environmental standards for the 21st century.

ii. A binding international agreement that each tree cut down after the signing of the agreement will be (at least) replaced.

iii. All major United Kingdom cities to be subject to an air pollution monitoring network delivering World Health Organisation guidelines.

iv. Standards to contain vehicle and industrial emissions of hydrocarbons and No_x so that they fall in absolute terms despite the growth in the volume of traffic and in the economy and without adding to the greenhouse effect.

- v. To increase the percentage of rivers at Class 1 standard - precise objective to be defined following Lord Crickhowell's report in 1991. Bring forward the completion of the Mersey Basin campaign from 2007 to 2000.
- vi. To make public places litter free in cities, villages and motorways and make progress in reducing noise.
- vii. To ensure that all parts of the United Kingdom have unrestricted drinking water of good quality.
- viii. To double (or treble) the recycling of re-usable wastes.
- ix. To bring all coastal bathing waters to first class standard.
- x. To clean and restore our cathedrals and/or Grade 1 historic buildings through a scheme to match private provision by public funds on a pound for pound basis.
- xi. To increase the proportion of energy to be provided from non-fossil fuel sources (target to be set under the powers provided by the Electricity Bill).

Housing

- 7. To bring another 3 million households into owner occupation by the year 2000.

Transport

- 8. i. To reduce road casualties by one third.
- ii. To construct 2,700 miles of new or improved motorway and trunk roads.

CONFIDENTIAL

iii. To link the UK rail system with the other European railways by developing the opportunities opened by the Channel Tunnel and to create good links to the North and West of the United Kingdom.

iv. To improve air links within the United Kingdom and from airports to city centres.

v. To achieve free competition in air transport within the European Community, subject to agreed maintenance and safety standards, with a single system of air traffic control for international flights within Europe, governed by a no-strike agreement.

vi. To tackle congestion in London by expanding the capacity of the London Underground and British Rail, including the construction of at least one new line.

Crime

9. i. To reduce substantially the incidence of crime and fear of crime by making still more effective the efforts of the police in investigating offences and those of everyone in the community in reducing the opportunities for crime at home, work and elsewhere.

ii. To protect people from the harm caused by drug abuse through better education and effective enforcement of the law.

Racial Harmony

10. To make progress in eliminating discrimination and other barriers which prevent members of the ethnic minorities from having a sense of belonging to and playing a full part in the social and economic life of the nation.

CONFIDENTIAL

Voluntary Service Overseas

11. To increase the number of young people in voluntary service overseas from [x] to [y].

CONFIDENTIAL

Tangible Projects in Capital Cities

1. London

There are three large sites in the City which are candidates for re-development (Paternoster Square, Ludgate Circus and Smithfield) and two on the periphery (Spitalfields and Bankside Power Station). Of these, Paternoster Square is the most prominent, prestigious and sensitive site available. It was the subject of a developers' architectural competition a few years ago. Ove Arup were the winners, but the Prince of Wales intervened, demanded a private view and dismissed all the short listed schemes as unworthy. The neo-classicist John Simpson produced a neo-classicist layout, of which sketches have recently been sent to the Prime Minister. Arup's are now preparing a new planning application. The site itself has passed rapidly between different owners over the last few years and is now in the hands of the Venezuelan investor, Organizacion Diego Cisneros, who are now trying to sell it but who still owe the previous owners £148 million of the purchase price. Hammerson are now said to be negotiating to buy a 70% stake for about £250 million. If it were decided to go for this site it would be essential to explore the ownership aspect before any announcement was made. The best solution would be for it to be acquired by the City Corporation or by a group of responsible developers. The site is about 4 acres and might be linked with the adjacent St Paul's Churchyard site (about 2 acres) which is also a candidate for re-development.

2. Edinburgh

The most certain scheme is the provision of a new building for the Museum of Scotland, to be part of the National Museums of Scotland adjacent to the present Royal Scottish Museum building in the centre of Edinburgh. This may be completed as early as 1996 or 1997. Another possibility is the replacement of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

3. Cardiff

It is uncertain what stage the Cardiff Bay Scheme will have reached by the year 2000, and it is anyway very familiar in Wales. One possibility would be an opera and dance house in the Docklands area of the Cardiff Bay re-development, which would be a permanent home for Welsh National Opera. This would however be expensive unless substantial private sponsorship can be found. Another possibility which has been suggested for Wales as a whole is a commitment to improve the transport links between North and South Wales, but it is uncertain how much of this is in the existing roads programme.

4. Belfast

The development of Laganside has already been announced and should be bearing fruit by the mid-1990s. One of the proposals currently under consideration by the Laganside Corporation - and very strongly supported by Belfast City Council - is the construction of a major conference and exhibition centre as part of the Laganside development. Another possibility, for which the need has been recognised in Belfast for several years, is a sports arena of international standard.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Great Exhibition

A Great Exhibition of arts and sciences could be run in Hyde Park, perhaps with satellite exhibitions at sites elsewhere in London (Battersea/Burgess Park) and in other large cities. Scope would cover past achievements - objects and events from the past - but would look forward to the next thousand years too. The exhibition would need to last for some months to justify investment.

The Hyde Park location could provide an opportunity to equip the exhibition area below Speakers Corner with permanent (but largely underground) infrastructure - water, electricity, communications hard standing - which would enable it to fill more effectively its traditional function as central London's major events/assembly place. A permanent piece of visible infrastructure which might be included is a new Pavilion/orchestra platform with services underneath.

If the main site were, for example, in Burgess Park, Southwark, the opportunity could be taken to combine the Exhibition with the completion of a potentially major open space in inner South London - Burgess Park is 95 fragmented acres of open space handed over to Southwark on the abolition of the GLC.

Some public money would be needed. But this should be the sort of project to attract private sponsors. Some of the costs could also be met from admission charges. It would be a very large undertaking to organise, but it would draw on skills and expertise well tested in the many smaller scale festivals and exhibitions run in recent years. It would be a good way too perhaps of harnessing the efforts of various arts and museum bodies.

Various themes could be covered given the significance of the date; a "heritage" element might be an essential component.

CONFIDENTIAL

Given the nature of the anniversary, it is assumed that an international exhibition is unlikely to be feasible; but themes linked internationally could be considered.

An alternative venue might be Docklands.



Sir Peter Middleton GCB
Permanent Secretary

5/9/89 ..

*Manjula
-
Cov (x let someone v ours)*

Chancellor,

The Millennium

1. I am not at all keen on this:

- (a) It will be difficult to maintain momentum
- (b) It will be difficult to select a Commission
- (c) It is potentially very expensive indeed - and it is bound to go on the something for everyone principle ✓
- (d) It could, I should have thought, get out of hand politically as well as financially ✓

I certainly would not invite the Prince to get involved till we were a lot clearer about what the proposals was ✓

2. I think the reason for the delay is that none of the specific ideas have been agreed with the Treasury. We cannot do this as well as conduct the Public Expenditure Review - especially with such a vague list of proposals which rather resemble the Labour Party's programme at the last election

Em

5/9.

1 after m

CONFIDENTIAL



PLP

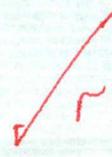
CH/SECRETARY	
RECEIVED	- 6 SEP 1989
NAME	SIR P MIDDLETON ✓/64
TO	

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

6 September 1989



Rev John.

THE MILLENIUM

The Prime Minister discussed with the Chancellor today her ideas for setting Government objectives for the Millenium. She said there was a great deal to be done to improve the appearance of Britain. She was, however, concerned that to launch such an initiative would fuel demands for higher public expenditure at a very difficult time. The objective should be to present, in the Millenium context, expenditure which the Government would have to incur anyway. This would be difficult to achieve, particularly against the background of the lavish expenditure by France on public buildings for the Bicentennial of the French Revolution. The Prime Minister was also worried that it might be difficult to prevent the Millenium Commission, which The Prince of Wales might lead, from becoming a lobby for more spending. Against this, she was worried that to delay the initiative would run the risk of having it scooped by someone else.

The Chancellor strongly endorsed the Prime Minister's concerns about public spending, for which the prospects were particularly difficult this year. He doubted whether it was necessary to make a move quite so early. In particular, he was worried that the initiative might drain the manifesto of attractive ideas.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor agreed that the objections to a Great Exhibition in 2001 were less strong, though it was doubtful whether preparation on it needed to start so soon.

The Prime Minister said she would reflect on this further and would talk again to Sir Robin Butler, to whom I am copying this letter.

Please could you ensure that this letter is shown only to Sir Peter Middleton's Office at this stage.

Your sincerely
Andrew

ANDREW TURNBULL

John Gieve, Esq.
H.M. Treasury.

CONFIDENTIAL