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Prime Minister's meetings with Lord Chilner

PRIME MINISTER

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January 1988

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SUBJECT

CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA*From the Private Secretary***MR. JOHN FAIRCLOUGH****CABINET OFFICE**

Lord Chilver saw the Prime Minister yesterday for a general discussion. One of the subjects he raised was that of basic and applied scientific research, and I thought it might be helpful if I recorded the main point he made. This was that the UK is now 20th in the ratings of the volume of research, and is responsible for 4-5 per cent of the total output. Even if the amount of money we devoted to this remains the same over the coming years, the proportion will decline as other countries are increasing their budgets. He therefore stressed the importance of our having access to the remaining 95 per cent of the world's output, firstly to ensure that we could take advantage of it, and secondly to ensure that we did not waste our limited resources through inefficient overlap or duplication. Other countries have been in this position for some time, and he thought it important that we should look now at the ways they had found of maximising their benefits. He had a number of ideas in mind such as sending out students at a fairly early stage, perhaps even graduates, to work in countries such as Japan to ensure that they are fully plugged into the system there. But his ideas were at an early stage and he said he would be producing a paper expanding on this in due course.

I am copying this minute to George Guise (No. 10 Policy Unit).

P A BEARPARK**14 April 1988**

PRIME MINISTER

Henry Chilver is coming in tomorrow for a brief discussion, which he asked for, following the UK/Japan 2000 Group luncheon earlier this year. He has told me that there are two points he would like to discuss. The first of these is to expand a little on science and technology policy which he has mentioned to you before, and the second is his wish to remain involved with Milton Keynes while developing new business ventures following his resignation as Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield. You will recall that he is to be appointed as Chairman of the University Funding Council, and is also being re-appointed as Chairman of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. We are told that this all fits in with his wishes.

POS

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P. A. BEARPARK

14 April 1988

CCRP

Cayley Lodge Cranfield Bedford MK43 0SX

from Lord Chilver

tel: (office) 0908 674444
tel: (home) 0234 750494

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PPS

Private and Confidential

20 January 1988

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister⁴

I was very glad to have the opportunity of a brief word with you at the recent luncheon with the UK-Japan 2000 Group. It was good of you to entertain the Group, and they were all most appreciative of your interest and the time you spent with them.

I mentioned when we met that I would be grateful if you could spare the time for a very brief private discussion at some stage.

At the moment I am exploring ways of developing my work more widely in private industry. Although this might involve moving from my present academic base, I would still like to maintain my links with the public sector and particularly with Milton Keynes.

But before going along this route, I would very much welcome your views. I hope it may be possible to arrange a brief meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely
Henry Chilver

JAPAN: relations pt 7.

Mr. James M. Smith

James M. Smith
Foreign Editor



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