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THE PRIME MINISTER

27 August 1980

Dear David,

Thank you for sending me the transcript of Sir George Porter's recent address to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. The concept of obtaining useful energy by the photolysis of water in a manner analogous to that used in the chloroplasts of green plants has, as you say, an appealing elegance about it. It is clear, however, from Sir George's own paper that there are several conceptual hurdles yet to be jumped between the scientifically elegant and the technologically possible.

You will be pleased to know that as part of the Government's response to the Spinks report on Biotechnology (which I was interested to see Sir George quotes with approbation) we will be ensuring that work in this area is kept under review and that opportunities for potential commercial benefit are not missed. As well as what is done nationally the UK also participates in a number of EEC programmes designed to explore some of the technological problems associated with the widespread use of hydrogen as a fuel and the exploitation of solar energy.

Yours  
Raymond

Sir David Price, M.P.

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