

Yout.
Mach. ✓ CC Mr James
Mr Wolfson



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PRIME MINISTER

From the Secretary of State

Nick Sanders Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

told Trade
by phone on
28/9 MS

27 September 1979

Dear Nick,

1. Hunt the Dept.
has written to the
Guardian.

'GUARDIAN' DIARY: THE RAYNER EXERCISE

You asked for a note on the article in today's 'Guardian' diary which suggested that the exercise to increase Civil Service efficiency has involved "the biggest foreign binge for the department's staff that anyone in the Ministry can remember".

There is no substance in the article. The Principal who is working for Sir Derek Rayner in examining the efficiency of the Department's export promotional work has made only one overseas trip. He accompanied the Minister of State, Cecil Parkinson, on a two day visit to Germany as part of the regular Ministerial support for exporters at the Cologne Food Fair.

We have no indication of the source of the 'Guardian' article, but since the passage I quote above refers to "anyone in the Ministry", we suggest that it may have been inspired by someone on the Staff Side.

Yours sincerely
Stuart Hampson

S HAMPSON

Private Secretary

THE GUARDIAN SEPTEMBER 27 1979

Kindest cuts

SUSPICIONS are growing in Whitehall that the Government's great cost-cutting exercise will soon be using more money than it ever eventually saves. The bill for tracking down and closing

the Hadrian's Wall Advisory Committee, for instance, may finally be several times the £400 which that little organisation received every year from public funds.

The latest piece of evidence cited on behalf of this theory comes from the Department of Trade, presided over by Mr John Nott. As a contribution to the Thatcher audit, the Minister has decided to examine the expensive business of foreign trade fairs and related trips abroad by departmental staff.

Do these really help to promote our exports, Mr Nott wondered, and he summoned his civil servants a couple of weeks ago to discuss how the question could best be answered. The result, in the form of probing trips to quiz embassies and businessmen abroad on the matter, has been the biggest foreign binge for the department's staff that anyone in the ministry can remember.