



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
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Secretary of State for Industry

19 December 1979

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Mike

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY :
14 JANUARY 1980

We have spoken on several occasions about the Prime Minister's proposed visit to this Department on 14 January.

My Secretary of State envisages a programme on the lines set out in the enclosure. He thinks this would be the best use of the Prime Minister's time during the visit and, as you will see, the programme takes account of various points you have explained to me on the telephone. It might be helpful if I mentioned that the Secretary of State would not intend to invite all the Under Secretaries in the Department to attend the lunch and those invited will be limited to ensure a full discussion on a limited range of topics. You may also want to note that the Department shares Common Services (ie Establishments, Accountants, Solicitors, Economists and Statisticians) with the Department of Trade and we think that there might usefully be a separate discussion with a few selected people from these divisions.

My Secretary of State thinks that the discussion at the main morning meeting should deal with the following topics:

- a) The Department's general role in determining the macro-economic framework within which manufacturing industry operates including its work on the preparation of fiscal and economic policy, on trade and employment questions and on supply-side rigidities. He would also wish to mention the Department's work on seeking to develop a new enterprise culture and on improving relations between industry and education;
- b) The Department's specific functions in connection with industrial assistance including regional aids, sectoral assistance and assistance under the Science and Technology Act; and



- c) The Department's sponsorship function towards public sector industries including the Post Office, British Steel, British Aerospace, British Shipbuilders and the major National Enterprise Board subsidiaries (ie BL and Rolls Royce)

My Secretary of State does not think it would be helpful to attempt to lay down an agenda for the discussion with Under Secretaries and with Assistant Secretaries and Principals. He thinks the Prime Minister is likely to want to raise subjects which interest her and that discussion will depend on the issues which are current at the time and on those present. It would be helpful if we could know whether there are any particular topics which the Prime Minister wishes to discuss so that we can arrange to invite the appropriate people to lunch or to coffee.

As you will realise the Prime Minister's visit will cause considerable interest within the Department and in the regional offices. We therefore plan to arrange for a few photographs etc which would appear in the Department's newspaper *Ti-Line*. We would be grateful if you could confirm that there is no objection to these arrangements.

Yours ever

Ian Ellison

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OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRY

- 11.30 - 12.45 Discussion with Ministers, Permanent Secretary
and Deputy Secretaries
- 12.45 - 13.30 Buffet Lunch with a number of Under Secretaries
- 13.30 - 14.00 Coffee with a number of Assistant Secretaries
and Principals
- 14.00 - 14.45 Short tour of Ashdown House involving visits
to two Divisions
- 14.45 - 15.00 Tea with a selection of junior officials at
which the Staff Side and the Common Services
Divisions will be represented.

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20 DEC 1979

