

FROM VISCOUNT WATKINSON, P.C., C.H.

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RZ

Dear Margaret-

At least some members of the TUC will come to your meeting prepared to be unreasonable at hoping that afterwards they can say that this was your attitude and not their own. I think there would be a bad thing for government at this time. So forgive me for bothering you with a suggestion that I believe might help. Its the result of more diary meetings with union leaders than most people!

First they will be inadequately briefed on the facts. So why not offer them a formal Treasury briefing on the economic trends. Not from Ministers but from officials alone. If protocol is a problem NEDC could arrange.

Second they will expect to be rebuffed. So why it suggest that the government would back, with its own money, any programme of information agreed by CBE & TUC dealing with what can be done now to mitigate unemployment by re-training, job experience etc. and what might be done to maintain our industrial base for the future by better productivity & efficiency.

Things are rough enough for people to expect
a constructive lead from the government. Not in the
sense of a change of policy but in the sense of spelling
out what ends the policies are aimed at.

We all need to see a bit of a glimmer somewhere
down the end of this tunnel, perhaps even the TVC
would like to see that.

In all this I believe that you should
take the time that our problems should unite us
and not divide the nation.

Very best wish

J -

Harold