



Civil Service Department  
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ  
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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

cc J. Veeler

From the Private Secretary

29 September 1981

From Mr. (Melbourne)

Tim Lankester  
10 Downing Street

Minited  
MCS + 2/10

You suggested that our evidence to Megaw should be published simultaneously with the unions' evidence. But as explained below, this raises problems.

Dear Tim,

Yes not

Content that CSD should proceed as they originally proposed?

Thank you for your letter of 23 September about the publication of the Government's written evidence to the Megaw Inquiry.

We fully appreciate the Prime Minister's desire to avoid giving the unions any advantage in seeing the Government's evidence before they submit their own. But as you sensed in your letter it would be impractical for us to exchange evidence with the unions simultaneously. For one thing they are not yet ready with theirs and we do not wish to delay the submission of ours. And once the Government has submitted its evidence it would be difficult to defer publication without giving the impression that it had something to hide. In any case the Inquiry will wish to ask the unions in due course for their response to the Government's evidence (and of course our response to theirs) and there would be no real advantage to the unions in seeing it sooner rather than later.

In these circumstances if the Prime Minister is content we would prefer to press ahead and publish our evidence as originally proposed.

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Buckley.

J BUCKLEY