

CONFIDENTIAL



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Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
Great George Street  
LONDON SW1

17 November 1980

*Dear Geoffrey*

... I enclose a copy of the minute I have today sent to the Prime Minister together with the proposed text of the Green Paper.

I owe you an explanation of why I have not followed the suggestion in your letter of 10 November that officials should consider the content of the Green Paper before it is circulated to Ministers.

The reason you gave for your suggestion was the importance and political sensitivity of the Green Paper. But it was just because of its political sensitivity and importance that I have thought it right that colleagues should have the earliest possible view of it and that any comments that you or others may have should be sent to me.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours faithfully*  
*John Major*