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PRIME MINISTER

GOVERNMENT EVIDENCE TO THE CIVIL SERVICE PAY INQUIRY

should mucea?

I have seen the revised draft of a synopsis of the Government's evidence submitted to you by Sir Robert Armstrong's office following our meeting on 15 July.

No doubt all of us will have some points of balance and tone which we shall want to consider carefully when we see the draft evidence itself. But for my part I would be content for officials to get on now with the drafting of the evidence on the basis of the revised synopsis.

I understand from Sir John Megaw that the Inquiry will not be able to start its substantive work until after the holiday period, and that he has in mind asking for initial Government evidence to reach him by the end of September. If you agree my officials will now prepare a draft which could be discussed with officials from the Treasury, the Department of Employment and your office with a view to its submission to Ministers at the beginning of September.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Employment and Sir Robert Armstrong.

SOAMES 3 August 1981