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PRIME MINISTER

Now that the cuts exercise is all over the newspapers - surely we ought to announce it before the Recess. If we wait until the Autumn we will have to face two rows; and the Autumn row will come as Parliament reassembles and the wage round is in progress.

We ought, in any event, to inform local government now - and that represents half the total amount - and the worst half. I cannot see the overriding argument for not going on in Parliament for two days next week if necessary. We may lose vital business this week - and it is silly to suggest that your presence in Lusaka will "look like running away". I feel that the row over two extra days is well worth facing - for all the problems we will otherwise face in the Autumn at the beginning of the Parliamentary year.

JOHN NOTT

23 July 1979

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