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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 April 1980

I am sorry that I have not replied before to your letter of 14 March which we met to discuss on 24 March.

I think it is right that Select Committees should look critically every so often at Government organisations and practices that have been in existence for some time. For this reason, as I told you when we met last month, I welcome the intention of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee to enquire into the role and powers of the Civil Service Department. This is a subject in which there is considerable Parliamentary and public interest at present and on which the Government will in due course have to reach conclusions. I am sure that it will be valuable to have the Committee's contribution to the discussion.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.

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