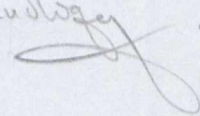


Woodcote  
Torkington Road  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 2AE  
5th September 1980

MMP has  
seen  
sf.

The Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London

R8/9  
M

Science + Technology  


(Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development)

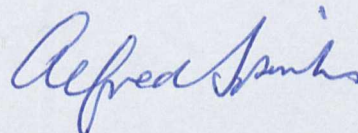
Dear Mr Patterson,

Thank you for your letter of 1st September.. I am delighted, as all my ACARD colleagues will be, that the Prime Minister should refer the difficulties of private inventors to us: they lie within our remit, and we are keen to be helpful to Government.

Our current study of innovation by a working party under the chairmanship of Dr Rotherham is mainly institutional in emphasis, and an earlier study by a working party under my chairmanship was particularly concerned with innovation as a costly, slow, high-risk investment, and with product and process design. All these factors, and the multi-disciplinary character of most successful innovation, obviously affect the individual inventor, but there are others and I will organize a special study of them. I agree that a quick study would be best: apart from other considerations we should not wish to publish a detailed innovation mark III soon after marks I and II.

I have an informal meeting next week with CPRS to discuss the work of ACARD, and an ACARD steering committee on 24th September. It should be possible to define a study at those meetings.

Yours sincerely,



A Spinks