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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
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PRIME MINISTER

PUBLICATION OF SCOTT REPORT

Following the discussion at Cabinet on 15 January, I am preparing with the Lord President of the Council a draft Note of Guidance for circulation to Cabinet. I hope to send this to you very shortly, so that you can see what we have in mind before it goes to our colleagues.

.....  
2. Meanwhile, we need also to settle the precise arrangements for publication. The Report is being printed as a Command Paper, and will be ready during the first week of February. You announced the establishment of the Inquiry by Written Answer. I think it would be appropriate to adopt the same form to announce publication of the Report, particularly since our intention is to make minimal substantive comment at the time. On this basis, I offer the attached draft for you to consider.

3. As regards timing, I understand that Sir Bernard Scott, who would like to be in London and available at the time of publication, and indeed proposes to issue a Press Statement giving a brief summary of the main points of the Report, will not be available in the first two or three days of the first week in February, but will be available on and after Thursday, 5 February. If this is convenient to you, and does not clash uncomfortably with any other proposed announcements, I suggest we might go for Thursday, 5 February.

4. I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Lord President of the Council.

(G.H.)

27 January 1981

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*Prime Minister*

*We suggest that the report ~~is~~ be published*

*Yes at 4 pm. next Thursday (after the beginning of your speech).*

*Content - and also into draft written*

*Was Pq and Answer? no*

*R.*

*247,*

DRAFT QUESTION

To ask the Prime Minister whether she will make a statement about the account taken of the value of index-linked pensions in settling public sector pay and employee pension contributions.

DRAFT ANSWER

On May 22 1980, I announced the establishment of an independent inquiry under the Chairmanship of Sir Bernard Scott into this question [Vol. 985, Cols. 285-286]. I received the report of the Committee of Inquiry on 19 December and I am today publishing it as a Command Paper. I should like to thank Sir Bernard Scott and his colleagues for their thoughtful analysis of the difficult issues involved.

Before making any decisions on this problem, the Government will take account of the reactions to the Report's analysis and findings.

*Agreed  
mt*