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HL



10 DOWNING STREET

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From the Private Secretary

15 July 1981

Dear David,

This is just to confirm the outcome of the discussion which the Prime Minister had with your Secretary of State after the meeting of E Committee this morning. The Prime Minister asked Mr. Nott to prepare a note setting out various options for taking on unemployed youngsters into the services. The Prime Minister said that he should think in terms of a scheme costing £10-25 million. Mr. Nott said that he would certainly prepare such a note. It would cover the following: stepping up recruitment, reviving the scheme which he had earlier prepared as an adjunct to the Youth Opportunities Programme, which had been sabotaged by MSC, and taking on several hundred youngsters per month for "adventure training".

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Wiggins (H.M. Treasury) and David Edmonds (Department of the Environment) since the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for the Environment were also present during the discussion. A copy also goes to David Wright (Cabinet Office). As I told you on the telephone, it would be helpful if the note could be circulated by the early evening to all those attending tonight's E Committee meeting on measures to combat unemployment.

[Handwritten signature]
Tim

David Omand, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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