



C.F.  
For folder for  
PM/Ch E  
meeting  
this afternoon  
MUS

C ✓ AD  
AL  
JL  
Prime Minister

(1)

MO 4/4

PRIME MINISTER

This crossed with my letter regarding  
your view that you will probably not see the  
Chairmen this year but will concentrate on  
the <sup>written</sup> evidence. Should I say that  
you will take account

THE PAY REVIEW BODIES

I have seen Geoffrey Howe's minute to you of 30th October, and also the minutes of E(PSP)(81)5th Meeting. Although I go along in general with what Geoffrey says, there is one suggestion which I think we ought to reconsider, namely that those Ministers "most directly concerned" should meet the TSRB, DDRB and AFPRB separately from any meeting you and Geoffrey might have with them. This is a departure from what was done last year, and I am not sure that it offers an improvement.

2. Quite apart from the fact that several of us have a direct interest in the work of the TSRB, all three Review Boards report to you, not to individual Ministers. Last year the business of briefing the Boards on our reading of the economic and financial background was handled by your seeing them with Geoffrey Howe and the appropriate Departmental Ministers. This seems to me properly to reflect the constitutional relationship between the Boards and the Government. It also has the practical advantages of maximizing the impact of our message and guaranteeing complete consistency of presentation, an important point when nuances matter and, in the case of Sir Harold Atcherley, there is overlapping membership of Boards. I think we were right to handle it as we did last year, and see no reason to change our practice. I feel strongly that we should do the same again this year.

3. I am copying this to the members of E, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Oh. Now is right - but I doubt  
whether the Board will carry  
on if we do this  
each year.  
not

of Mr Notts views when you  
finally consider decide whether  
or not to see  
the Chairmen?

FW

Ministry of Defence  
9th November 1981

MUS 13/11