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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M6/83

ALL MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Long-Term Public Expenditure

At their meeting on 9 September, the Cabinet invited all Ministers with responsibility for public expenditure to review their programmes critically with a view to contributing to a substantial reduction in public expenditure in the longer-term; to discuss their proposals with Treasury Ministers and other colleagues as appropriate; and to report (CC(82)41st Conclusions, Minute 4).

I should be grateful if you would accordingly send me a report on the possibilities in the area of your Departmental responsibilities. It should be prepared in consultation with Treasury Ministers, and any other colleagues whose responsibilities are affected, and reach me by 31 March with copies only to Treasury Ministers and any colleagues whose responsibilities may be directly affected by the suggestions in it. It should be prepared under your personal supervision. No doubt you will wish to draw on the work you have already done for the five-year forward look.

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I have it in mind that the results, after any further discussion that may be appropriate, should be incorporated in the 1983 Public Expenditure Survey.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary, Treasury, the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Nancy Astor*

4 February 1983

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