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Secretary of State for Industry

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC, MP  
11 Downing Street  
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1 March 1983

- 1. Chancellor.
- 2. Mr Ridley.

*JDL* /iii

*Last §, in part, facts were stated in CPRs + memo handwritten, exhibition documents with ES?*

Dear Geoffrey,

I am replying to your letter of February 8 asking for a short note of points for possible inclusion in a manifesto.

The draft which I am sending you takes the form - though not necessarily the style - of what might go into a manifesto, as this seems the most helpful way of presenting it. I have starred those points to which I give the highest priority.

I have not included regional policy - although it would certainly be included in any manifesto - simply because, as you know, final decisions have still to be taken.

*Your ever*  
*Rate*

INDUSTRY



Britain can only prosper if our manufacturing and service industries are competitive and profitable. Since 1980 productivity has been rising; industrial costs have been brought under control; and we are beginning to become more competitive in the world's markets. Last year, we increased our share of world trade.

So, as we emerge from the world recession, we are far better placed than for many years for a sustained economic recovery.

We will continue to help firms to adopt the new technologies.\* Since 1979, we have more than doubled the spending on schemes of this sort. New technology helps firms become more competitive and opens up new markets in new goods and services. The jobs of tomorrow will depend on the industries of tomorrow. We will therefore improve and extend our programme of support for innovation.\* We will organise and support, in partnership with industry, a major programme of research on advanced information technology.\* We will accelerate the transfer of technology from the university laboratory to the marketplace by such means as science parks. We will help firms to launch new products through pilot schemes and public purchasing. We will also launch new cable networks to bring wider choice to consumers, not just for entertainment, but for the whole new world of tele-shopping, tele-banking etc.\*



Small firms must play a greater part in the economy. Since 1979, we can point to almost 100 specific measures to help small firms - not just new firms but all small firms. We are determined to continue our drive to create a better climate for enterprise through greater incentives, including lower taxes; by cutting bureaucracy; and by helping with finance, premises and advice.

We believe that a company which depends for its survival on the marketplace is more accountable to the public than a State-owned monopoly. We will therefore continue with our programme to introduce competition and private capital into the State-owned industries.\* Our objective is that by the end of a full Parliament, British Telecom, Rolls Royce and most of British Steel, British Shipbuilders and BL will have become private sector companies.\* We will offer shares in British Telecom to telephone subscribers and to employees.\* That is real public ownership.

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