



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 March 1983

Dear Christopher,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March.

I was most interested to read of your talk with a German business colleague. Undoubtedly the German system of training young people, coupled with conscription, substantially reduces unemployment and gives them a good basic training for the future. We shall be making a start but it will take us a long time to reach their standards. Also, as you know, the wages of our young people are higher than those in Germany and that factor leads to higher unemployment.

I did not know about the "household into business" scheme. It is worth pursuing.

Please let me know if you hear any more.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Raymond*

The Rt. Hon. Lord Soames, CH, GCMG, GCVO, CBE.

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