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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

22 August 1979

The Rt Hon John Nott MP
 Secretary of State for Trade
 Department of Trade
 1 Victoria Street
 LONDON
 SW1

MBM

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 28/8

Dear Secretary of State,

STOCK EXCHANGE

In Geoffrey Howe's absence, I am replying to your letter of 16 August.

I am glad that it is possible to find a way forward on the lines which we had suggested. I note that you are prepared to consider total exemption of the Stock Exchange later if it proves that the Restrictive Trade Practices Court takes an unduly narrow view of the considerations which it can take into account. On that understanding, I agree that officials should now work out the details of the legislative provisions needed to allow the RTP Court to consider alternative arrangements and to defer the effect of any findings while doing so.

I am content that you should communicate our decision to the Stock Exchange: I assume that you will give them an opportunity to consider and discuss it before any announcement. I should be grateful if my officials could be consulted about the terms of the announcement.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of 'E' Committee, to the Lord Chancellor and to Sir John Hunt.

Yours sincerely,

P Diggle (private secretary)

pp NIGEL LAWSON

(approved by the Financial Secretary and signed in his absence)

1979

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TLJ (O.A. ~~28~~ 28/VIII)

pm has not seen
this correspondence
about the Stock Exchange

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24/11/18