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Mapping up
Reports in box
in CF.

PRIME MINISTER

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES : THE "MOPPING UP" EXERCISE

1. Decisions have now been taken on the future of most of the "quangos" which were still being reviewed when Sir Leo Pliatzky's Report was published last January. You gave CSD the job of co-ordinating the "mopping up" exercise, in consultation with the Treasury. A report on the outcome is attached. As with Sir Leo Pliatzky's Report itself, the decisions are those of the sponsoring Ministers.

RESULTS

2. The mopping up exercise has been well worthwhile. A total of a further 195 bodies are to be abolished (29 executive bodies, 165 advisory bodies and one tribunal) and the activities of others will be reduced. The eventual saving from these decisions will be more than £11 million a year by 1983/84, mostly from rationalisation of bodies to be retained.

3. These decisions, with those covered in Sir Leo Pliatzky's Report, will bring the total number of bodies to be abolished to 439 and the total annual savings from the reviews to nearly £23 million by 1983/84. This represents good progress so far. But we must keep up the pressure. This will require all colleagues to accept personal responsibility for continuing the drive. A close watch on the spending of the remaining bodies will be equally essential.

HANDLING

4. I suggest that you might announce the results of the mopping up exercise in answer to a Written PQ, as you did with Sir Leo Pliatzky's Report. Drafts are enclosed.

5. I see no need to publish the mopping up report itself, which has in any case been prepared as an internal document. Sponsoring departments are best placed to deal with Press enquiries about individual decisions.

6. The reviews of some bodies, such as the Nationalised Industry Consumer Councils and Industrial Training Boards, will not be completed for some time yet. I think it would probably be best for the decisions on these to be announced ad hoc and as soon as possible rather than await the outcome of a further mopping up exercise.

THE COMPUTER BOARD AND THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IDS)

7. These two bodies were included in the list of bodies whose abolition we announced in January. IDS has since been reprieved, and I understand that Mark Carlisle will be seeking your agreement to retaining the Computer Board. Any statement on these bodies should, I suggest, be made before your own.

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NEW BODIES

8. Since May 1979 we have decided to set up 30 new bodies (notably the two Urban Development Corporations which will be responsible for spending well over £100 million a year), in addition to those that have replaced old ones as part of stream-lining. Philip Holland's latest pamphlet advocates a complete ban on new bodies. That is impracticable, as the Welsh Television case shows. But I remain worried by the rate at which new bodies are being created. As Cabinet agreed on 7 August, it is the responsibility of each Minister to reduce the number of quangos in his own field. While the creation of some new bodies may be unavoidable, I believe each of us must be robust in resisting pressures to set up any for which the case is not over-whelming.

9. I am sending copies of this minute and the enclosures to Cabinet colleagues and Norman Fowler, and to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Ian Bancroft.

S.

SOAMES

3 October 1980

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DRAFT WRITTEN PQ AND ANSWER

QUESTION

To ask the Prime Minister if decisions have now been taken about the future of those bodies which were still under review when the Report on Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Cmnd 7797) was published in January 1980; and if she will make a statement.

ANSWER

The Prime Minister : In January this year I announced decisions which will lead to the abolition of over 240 non-departmental public bodies with estimated savings of £11.6 million in a full year.

Decisions have now been taken which will lead to the winding up of another 29 executive bodies and 166 advisory and judicial bodies. Valuable financial savings will arise from these decisions and from reductions in the expenditure of other bodies which have been reviewed. These savings will accrue over a period of time and in some cases cannot yet be calculated, but they will reach over £11 million a year by 1983/84.

I am sure Hon Members will welcome these measures which bring to 439 the total number of public bodies to be wound up and savings which will approach £23 million a year by 1983/84.

A number of reviews are still in progress including those of the Nationalised Industries Consumer Councils, and the Industrial Training Boards. We shall keep all existing bodies under regular scrutiny. Those which continue to undertake valuable work and remain appropriate will be retained but we shall keep under close control the money which the Government spends on them. Whenever bodies are no longer needed they will be wound up.

There is always pressure for the creation of new bodies. We shall be robust in resisting them. But we shall approve proposals for new bodies if we can be convinced that the function is essential and that a non-departmental body is the most appropriate way to do the job - as in the case of the Urban Development Corporations and other bodies we have set up.

Details of the decisions I am announcing today are as follows:

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DSG

File



cc: Cabinet
DT Trans.
Chief Whip's Off.
CO
CSD

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 October 1980

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES: THE "MOPPING UP" EXERCISE

The Prime Minister has seen the Lord President's minute of 3 October.

She has agreed that she will announce the results of the "mopping up" exercise by an Answer to a Written Question. She will give further consideration to the draft Answer when the House of Commons returns, in the light of any developments between now and then.

I am copying this letter for information to the Private Secretaries to the Members of Cabinet, including the Minister of Transport, and to David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Jeremy Colman (CSD).

N. J. SANDERS

Jim Buckley, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

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DSG

PRIME MINISTER

These papers cover the conclusions of the "mopping up" exercise on quangos. You should be aware of the broad outlines, although you may prefer not to look at the details until next weekend.

Ministers have identified 195 more bodies for abolition. There will eventually be a saving of more than £11 million per annum, mostly from cut backs in bodies which will survive. But this doubles the savings from the original review.

Yes not
(i) Agree to announce the results in a Written PQ in due course? If so, you might leave the details of the text until later.

(ii) Agree that the Ministers concerned should separately announce decisions on the Institute of Development Studies and the Computer Board - both now to be retained - before you give the results of this further work?

(iii) Paragraph 8 summarises the alarming rate of creation of new bodies. In the separate minute at Flag A, Lord Soames suggests that CSD and Treasury have no useful role in looking at proposals for new "advisory" bodies, and proposes that this must be left to the Ministers. CSD and Treasury would continue to consider proposals for new executive bodies. But he recommends that Ministers should each review their advisory bodies once a year. Agree this approach?

Yes
mi.
MA
3 October 1980

| | <u>Decision</u> | <u>Saving</u> |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Department of Education and Science</u> | | |
| Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research | Reduction in grant | c£36,000 pa by 1983/84 |
| Council for Educational Technology | Reduction in grant. Membership to be reduced | c£222,000 pa by 1982/83 |
| <u>Department of Employment Group</u> | | |
| Disablement Advisory Committees | Numbers to be reduced from 220 to 88 | c£150,000 pa |
| Industrial Relations Training Resource Centre | To be abolished | £60-100,000 pa |
| <u>Department of Energy</u> | | |
| Advisory Committee on Fixed Offshore Installations | Abolished in March | c£6,000 pa |
| Advisory Council on Energy Conservation | Reconstituted with reduced membership | c£1,000 pa |
| Severn Barrage Committee | To be abolished in 1981 | c£5,000 pa |
| <u>Department of the Environment</u> | | |
| Advisory Committee on Protection of Birds in England and Wales | Functions likely to be taken over by Nature Conservancy Council | Not yet known |
| Scientific Authority for Animals | | |
| New Town Development Corporations (11) | Target dates decided for abolition of first and second generation corporations | |
| Commission for New Towns | Abolition associated with winding-up of Development Corporations | Substantial. c£640,000 currently spent on departmental supervision etc |
| New Towns Staff Commission | | |
| Advisory Panel on Institutional Finance in New Towns | | |
| Housing Corporation | Staff reductions and administrative streamlining | c£1.0m |
| Housing Services Advisory Group | To be abolished in November | c£26,000 pa |

| | <u>Decision</u> | <u>Saving</u> |
|---|---|---|
| National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries | Abolished in April | £60-80,000 |
| Water Space Amenity Commission | To be abolished by legislation | c£100,000 pa |
| <u>Foreign Office</u> | | |
| British Council | Reduction in expenditure | Phased over 4 years to reach £8.6m pa by 1983/4 |
| <u>Health Departments</u> | | |
| Advisory Committee on Child Psychotherapists (Grading and Appointments) | To be abolished after current negotiations | c£12,000 pa |
| Advisory Committee on Top Grade Clinical Psychologists Posts | | |
| Advisory Committee on Top Grade Scientist Posts | | |
| Food Hygiene Advisory Council | To be abolished | Negligible |
| General Nursing Council (E&W) | To be abolished after transitional period. New structure involves Central Council and four territorial bodies | Some additional transitional costs. Final expenditure effects will be neutral |
| General Nursing Council for Scotland | | |
| Central Midwives Board (E&W) | | |
| Central Midwives Board (Scotland) | | |
| Northern Ireland Council for Nurses and Midwives | | |
| Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors | | |
| Panel of Assessors for District Nurse Training | | |
| National Radiological Protection Board Advisory Committee | To be abolished | Negligible |
| <u>Home Office</u> | | |
| Central Committee on Common Police Services | Fewer meetings, reduced membership | c£2,000 pa |
| Licensing Planning Committees (6) | 4 to be abolished | - |
| New Town Licensed Premises Committees (17) | 11 to be abolished by 1985 along with associated Development Corporations | - |

| | <u>Decision</u> | <u>Saving</u> |
|--|---|--|
| <u>Department of Industry</u> | | |
| Design Council | Staff reductions. Aim of increased income from advisory etc services | Substantial. Grant-in-aid currently £3.4m. |
| English Industrial Estates Corporation | New responsibilities, especially in raising private finance for industrial investment in Assisted Areas | c£27,000 in 1981-82 |
| <u>Northern Ireland Office and Departments</u> | | |
| Advisory Committee for Agricultural Training (NI) | Abolished | Negligible |
| Advisory Committee on Health Education (NI) | Abolished | Negligible |
| Extra Statutory Compensation Tribunal | To be abolished | Negligible |
| Hotel Grants Advisory Committee (NI) | To be abolished | c£4,000 |
| Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust | To be abolished | c£400,000 |
| NI Electricity Consumers Council | To be amalgamated | Not yet known |
| NI Consumer Council | | |
| NI Transport Users' Committee | | |
| NI Training Council | To be amalgamated | c£2000 pa |
| Youth Careers Guidance Committee | | |
| Youth Opportunities Programme Monitoring Committee | | |
| Nature Reserves Committee | To be amalgamated | Negligible |
| Wild Birds Advisory Committee | | |
| NI Training School Management Boards(4) | Government intends that Boards' present functions will be discharged by one board. | Not yet known |
| <u>Scottish Office</u> | | |
| Scottish Food Hygiene Council | To be abolished | Negligible |
| Governing Bodies of Colleges of Education | Closure of 2 colleges; restructuring of another | Significant. Not yet quantified. |

| | <u>Decision</u> | <u>Saving</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Scottish Horticultural Research Institute) | To be amalgamated | Negligible |
| Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding) | | |
| <u>Treasury</u> | | |
| Commonwealth War Graves Commission | Staff reductions and other savings | Upwards of £200,000 pa by 1983/84 |