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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

*cp Mr Dickelt (o/r)*

*Prime Minister*

PRIME MINISTER

*mf.*

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CHAIN OF COMMAND: OPEN STRUCTURE

This minute reports progress following the then Lord President's letter of 11 September on the Chain of Command and the proposed review of Open Structure posts.

The hope was to publish the Wardale report and our intentions next week but I fear that will not now be practicable. Delay adds to the risk that our plans will leak before we are ready to explain them fully. The impact on morale of an imperfect presentation of the proposals, particularly the 35% test, would be disturbing. It is, therefore, with great reluctance that I propose postponement but I believe that there is no practicable alternative.

Of the responses so far a number express serious reservations of substance about the proposals. The Defence Secretary is anxious to consider the matter personally and has asked for an extension. The contribution he is to make is crucial; however he will not be back in his office until 8 October. Other colleagues have also asked for more time. I propose to allow an extension to 13 October for final responses. I will also write to the Foreign Secretary explaining why I cannot accept that the Diplomatic Service should be exempt from the review.

A copy of this minute goes to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Baroness Young*

BARONESS YOUNG

28 September 1981



Department of Defense

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COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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