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PA. ① Civil Service

PRIME MINISTER

Dispersal

Your comments on Patrick Jenkin's minute of 22 January about proposals for dispersal to Cardiff and East Kilbride have introduced a note of uncertainty in the dispersal policy making process. Janet Young's office have a number of times telephoned me to let me know that Janet Young is not a keen disperser, is quite impressed by the efficiency arguments against dispersal in particular cases, but is soldiering on with the policy in the belief that that is what is required of her.

I told them each time that the policy stands - and that if Janet Young thinks it needs modification she will, presumably, minute you, or consult her colleagues, to that effect.

Content with this line?

*Yes - but I agree very much with John Biffen's letter on the policy. must not be seen in coming*

Or would you prefer me to invite Janet Young to have another look at existing policy, with a view to softening it at the edges - in particular whether dispersal plans pre-date manpower cuts, and so are having an unplanned harshness in their effect on Departments?

Please see the attached two letters on the subject.

MUS

17 March 1982

*Note/TOW Douglas Board in Lady*

*Young's office. Agreed that I would*

*not commit the informal steer*

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*to paper.*

*MUS 14/3*

*to unreasonable lengths MB.*