Ref. A09489

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister The time to act on this information will persumably ba when the Secretary of State for the Environment producer the paper which you asked him to submit to

Economic Strategy and the Supply Side of the Economy:

## Ministerial Meetings

At Cabinet on 9th September the Secretary of State for the Environment suggested that the Cabinet, or the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy, should give greater attention to strategic measures to improve the supply side of the economy. You asked me to let you know the occasions on which they had discussed subjects of this sort, in a general way rather than focussing on particular measures, in the past.

- The Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy discussed the 'supply side' on four occasions during 1979, and 1980 (E(79)6th and 13th Meetings; E(80)1st and 36th Meetings: minutes attached). In addition the Cabinet has held a number of macro-economic discussions, including a discussion before this year's Budget on 28th January (CC(82)3 and Conclusions Item 5).
- 3. The main work in the area falls to the Ministerial Steering Group on Government strategy (MISC 14), which the Secretary of State for the Environment attends. The Group has so far met three times this year. It will be considering later this year the subjects of employment legislation and small firms; the wider responsibilities of financial institutions; education and training; and regional economic policies.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15th September 1982





## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

## ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND THE SUPPLY SIDE OF THE ECONOMY: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

The Prime Minister has seen your minute (A09489) about earlier discussions of strategic measures to improve the supply side of the economy, for which she was grateful. She will want to take account of the points in your minute when considering how to handle the paper which the Secretary of State for the Environment was invited to prepare at the Cabinet meeting on 9 September.

FER. B.