



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private-Secretary

20 February 1980

Dear John,

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ANNOUNCEMENTS: SOCIAL SECURITY

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The Prime Minister has read the Chancellor's minute of 15 February about public expenditure announcements. She has noted that the announcement on the social security decisions can now be deferred until the publication of the Public Expenditure White Paper, but she wonders whether it would not be better if the White Paper were published on Budget day rather than on the currently planned date of 18 March. Although she is aware that the underlying economic assumptions in the White Paper will not be quite the same as the assumptions underlying the Budget judgement, she believes that there would be advantage in avoiding having to make a major statement on public expenditure - as presumably would be necessary - so shortly before the Budget. The Prime Minister would like to discuss this with the Chancellor before a final decision is taken.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip, the Acting Leader of the House of Lords, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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Tim

John Wiggins, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

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