



FROM THE
MINISTER OF STATE
FOR INDUSTRY AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Kenneth Baker's Office

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*Caroline / I have told JH that
Mr Baker should make
no commitment of the
kind at X.*

*WN
27/5*

26 May 1981

Dear Caroline,

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN 1982

Thank you for your letter of 12 May to Mr Baker in response to his minute of 7 May. As a result of subsequent events, particularly the crowding of a number of activities relating to Information Technology into October 1982, it has been decided to postpone the major Government Conference until 8-9 December 1982. I would be grateful therefore if you would amend Mr Baker's minute accordingly.

We have in mind that the Prime Minister might open the Conference in the morning of the 8 December, and give a key-note address of, say, 15-30 minutes. The Conference will be held at the Barbican Centre. In association with the Conference we are proposing to hold a Dinner, also in London, at which the Prime Minister might like to be guest of honour. This could be on either 8 or 9 December depending on which is more convenient. I hope this gives you an idea of the extent of the demand on the Prime Minister's diary. I look forward to hearing the result of the diary meeting early next month.

Mr Baker will be holding a press conference on Thursday 28 May at which he will announce what we have in mind for IT Year. Subject to your views, Mr Baker will say that he hopes the Prime Minister will open the Government Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hudson

JONATHAN HUDSON
Private Secretary

MS8/MS8ADQ



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26 MAY 1981



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RLH
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 June, 1981

Information Technology in 1982

Thank you for your letter of 26 May. We had a meeting with the Prime Minister this morning to discuss her 1982 engagements, and this is to confirm that she would be happy to address the Information Technology Conference on Wednesday, 8 December, 1982. The Prime Minister would like Mr Baker to prepare a draft speech for her, and this should reach us not later than the beginning of November. We will also require an up-to-date briefing.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Jonathan Hudson, Esq
Department of Industry

NM

CF to file?

12 May, 1981

You wrote to the Prime Minister on 7 May inviting the Prime Minister to open a major international conference on Information Technology in 1982.

I am hoping to have a diary meeting at the beginning of June at which this will be raised. I will contact your office as soon as a decision has been taken.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Kenneth Baker, Esq, MP



PRIME MINISTER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY YEAR 1982

You launched our Information Technology programme most successfully with the Micros in Schools Scheme. I am following this up with an awareness programme which will build on the successes of the Microelectronics Application Programme. A key feature of this programme will be a major international conference in London in the final week of October 1982 which will be associated with simultaneous conferences organised in major provincial centres, linked by modern communication facilities such as satellite or video-conferencing. These linked conferences will be the climax of a series of events between now and 1982, which is also the year of the British Computer Society's 25th Anniversary Jubilee.

Your personal involvement would, in the opinion of myself and a group of prominent figures from the IT industry who have formed themselves into a Committee to coordinate these events, be essential. It would demonstrate that you as Prime Minister give your personal support and authority to ensuring that Britain gets the most out of Information Technology. The theme will be Britain's achievements and the opportunities that lie ahead. I would therefore like to invite you to open the national conference as the final major event of the year, and to be the guest of honour at a dinner for senior participants. The dates I have in mind are either 27 or 28 October 1982, but there is some flexibility in this.

Working closely with the 1982 Committee we aim to give the awareness programme a consistent theme and overall direction. Industrial and commercial personalities will be involved, but the main thrust will be to encourage local initiatives from industry, commerce, the professions, local authorities and schools, to develop their own activities and events.

A detailed programme is now being worked out by officials in conjunction with the 1982 Committee. The new IT Advisory Group will have a major contribution to make in drawing up this programme.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Lord President, the Secretary of State for Employment, Robin Ibbs and Sir Robert Armstrong.

KB

7 May 1981

Syn M/S speech? 1. WR
2. CS
D. B. M.

6 December