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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Pre Mark

Tim Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

25 March 1986

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Dear Tim,

ACADEMIC TENURE

The Cabinet decided on 27 February that it was not possible to find a place for Sir Keith Joseph's proposed bill to limit academic tenure in the universities in the 1986-87 Session. Responses to the consultative document on the content of legislation have now been received, and bodies and individuals concerned are questioning the Secretary of State about the prospects for legislation. It is inevitably becoming more widely known that the prospects are slight, and we now understand that the Times Higher Education Supplement is planning to run a story this week that there will not be legislation this Session. To stop speculation over a controversial issue that would otherwise attract unnecessary attention, the Secretary of State is confirming that he does not now expect legislation to be introduced next Session. He will stress, however, that this does not reduce the Government's commitment to legislate when the Parliamentary timetable permits. The Secretary of State intends moreover to proceed, in the light of responses to the consultative document, to seek his colleagues' agreement to the detailed policy content of legislation to enable legislation speedily to be prepared once a slot can be found for it.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries to the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

yours sincerely,
Rob Smith

R L SMITH
Private Secretary

