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PRIME MINISTER

MISC 122 (86)11: TEACHERS' PAY

I regret that I shall not be able to attend the meeting of MISC 122 today as I shall be meeting the TUC Health Services Committee.

The proposal in the circulated paper that the regulations giving force to the recommendations of a Standing Advisory Committee should be subject to negative resolution is an improvement on the alternative of affirmative resolution. As the paper recognises, however, the need for regulations would nevertheless increase the difficulty of varying such a Committee's recommendations. A Committee would be unlikely to be more moderate in its recommendations than the existing Review Bodies. I therefore remain concerned that the Advisory Committee option would in practice seriously limit our freedom of action in relation to Review Body reports. It could also give rise to pressure for a Parliamentary safeguard in relation to Review Body recommendations.

For these reasons I favour the option of a Teachers' Negotiating Group. I also see some danger that the granting of an independent review mechanism would increase the pressure for such review, including arbitration, from other groups. And we should no longer have the "no industrial action" defence.

I am copying this minute to other members of MISC 122.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "N F".

14 July 1986

N F

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