



Prime Minister

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MCS 17/5

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

17 May 1982

The Rt Hon Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade
1 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0ET

Dear Arm

Thank you for your letter of 11 May about standards.

I have read the report with great interest and I am glad to see that officials believe it will be possible to move a substantial way towards the German approach without new legislation. There is obviously a great deal of work ahead, and the sooner it can get underway the better. I am content with the recommendations, and if Patrick Jenkin and others also agree, I accept that we do not need to meet to discuss them.

I suggest however that MISC 14 might aim to review progress in the autumn. I see the whole matter as of first importance in building up our competitiveness.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to the other members of MISC 14 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE