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Secretary of State for Industry

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21 May 1982

Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
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Dear Arthur.

Thank you for your letter of 14 May about the follow up to the MISC 14 work on standards. I entirely agree with you on the importance of keeping up the momentum and I think that my own speech to the British Standards Society will be a vital part of the process demonstrating the breadth of support for this policy within the Government and, in particular, the importance which I attach to it in view of my responsibilities for industry.

2 I am very grateful for your offer to take over this speech but I think perhaps that I ought to do it. I am told that the BSI invited me personally because of the importance of standards to industrial policy. The Department of Industry is heavily involved in standards making in its own right. Indeed over 250 officials are involved in almost 700 BSI committees and there is particularly close collaboration over the information technology and telecommunications standards which are vital for the rapid development which we wish to see in these industries.

3 While therefore I will not take up your kind offer, I would be very glad to include in my speech any points which you would like to be made, perhaps in elaborating the Parliamentary statement which you expect to make.

4 I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Your ever
R
Patrice

10 MAY 1961

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