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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M6/82

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

PRIVATISATION

We must sustain the momentum of the privatisation programme. Two aspects need particular attention. Suitable candidates (institutions and functions) need to be identified. And subsequent preparations for privatisation need to be pursued as vigorously as possible.

At this stage in the life of the Government, we should have two main objectives:

(i) to accelerate the smaller but not insignificant privatisation opportunities where we could hope to make substantial progress before the election; and

(ii) to ensure that sufficient planning and preparation is carried out now to allow potential major candidates to be privatised during the next Parliament.

/If we

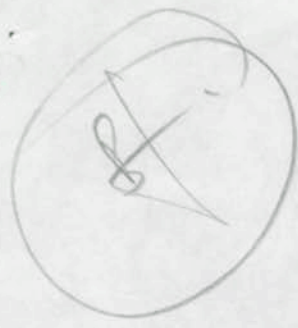
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DR.

SUBJECT.



If we are to achieve them we need to press on hard and fast.

Departmental Ministers should accordingly put in hand fresh surveys of potential candidates for privatisation soon, or in the next Parliament. They should report to you, as Chairman of E(DL), by mid-September, also setting out how preparations are proceeding, and to what timetable, where candidates for privatisation have already been identified. After consideration as necessary in E(DL), I should be grateful for a comprehensive report by the end of the Recess.

I am sending copies of this minute to the members of E(DL).

*Raymond Stobart*

28.7.82

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
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PRIME MINISTER

PRIVATISATION: SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

Despite the important progress being made in many areas of our privatisation programme, I am concerned that, unless we maintain pressure from the centre, Departmental Ministers may fail to give sufficient attention to sustaining the momentum of the programme. Some important opportunities may be attracting less attention than they deserve. In particular I am not sure that we have yet surveyed the functions or bodies which might be privatised as comprehensively as is possible: there may still be important candidates which have not been investigated or even identified. And even where candidates have been agreed, we cannot be confident that preparations are always proceeding as fast as can reasonably be expected. We need a hard push now if we are to achieve maximum progress before the election and to put ourselves in the best position to make further progress on major candidates after it.

2. What would best get things moving would be an explicit request from you for greater effort in this area. I attach a ..... draft of the kind of message which, as Chairman of E(DL), I would find very useful to receive.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G.H.'.

(G.H.)  
26 July 1982

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