

SUBJECT

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M6183

ALL MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Despatched to:

LPS	Ch / Duchy Lancaster
DHSS	Cab. Office
Transport	NIO
Energy	DES
Lord President	FCO
Employment	Lord Chancellor
Industry	Home Office
Welsh Office	
Trade	
Scotland	
Environment	
MAFF	
MOD	
CST	

ECON POL

Long-Term Public Expenditure

At their meeting on 9 September, the Cabinet invited all Ministers with responsibility for public expenditure to review their programmes critically with a view to contributing to a substantial reduction in public expenditure in the longer-term; to discuss their proposals with Treasury Ministers and other colleagues as appropriate; and to report (CC(82)41st Conclusions, Minute 4).

I should be grateful if you would accordingly send me a report on the possibilities in the area of your Departmental responsibilities. It should be prepared in consultation with Treasury Ministers, and any other colleagues whose responsibilities are affected, and reach me by 31 March with copies only to Treasury Ministers and any colleagues whose responsibilities may be directly affected by the suggestions in it. It should be prepared under your personal supervision. No doubt you will wish to draw on the work you have already done for the five-year forward look.

BF

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- 2 -

I have it in mind that the results, after any further discussion that may be appropriate, should be incorporated in the 1983 Public Expenditure Survey.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary, Treasury, the Lord President, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Raymond Storer

4 February 1983

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Raymond White

4 February 1983

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Peter / I told Jeremy
Yes - it stays ^{Mark} Secret 17/2
MCS 17/2

Michael

- J/En. have asked if they may change the classification on the PM's minute re long term public expenditure.

- They want to change it from 'Secret' to 'Confidential' on the grounds of:

1. previously classified confidential
2. He used to copy it extensively with the Dept. in order to prepare full answers.

I have said I thought it unlikely that we would agree to this but you may feel PTO

differently. Content for me
to say the present classification
must stand.?

Petes

16/2