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SECRET

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Secretary of State for Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NF

5 January 1984

Dear Tom,

WHITE PAPER "TRAINING FOR JOBS": MSC AND NAFE

In your letter of 22 December to Keith Joseph you asked for comments on the draft paragraphs for the White Paper concerning changes in the MSC's responsibilities for work-related training in the non-advanced further education sector.

I should be grateful if you would change the last sentence of paragraph 3 to read:-

"In Scotland current arrangements for funding further education will remain unchanged while the major development programmes referred to in paragraphs [24-25A] proceed".

This cross-reference to the developments which we have already set in train in Scotland would explain our purpose better than the rather vague reference to our "somewhat different pattern of education provision" in your draft of 22 December. For convenience I enclose a copy of these other paragraphs in the White Paper as I would now like them to read: these revised paragraphs are being sent this week to your officials dealing with the rest of the White Paper.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Education and Science, Trade and Industry, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,
Cunze.

CONFIDENTIAL

Scotland

24. In Scotland for 14-16 year olds, new courses and an improved system of assessment are being introduced from 1984/85 for the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) Standard grade. Courses with a particular vocational or technological emphasis will provide pupils with more relevant experience in schools for later working life. Performance-based assessment will provide better recognition of attainment of pupils of all abilities.

25. For 16-18s, major changes were announced in the Government's Action Plan of January 1983. A more flexible system of modular courses is to be introduced leading to a single new vocational certificate which will absorb the Scottish Certificate of Vocational Studies and other non-advanced further education qualifications as agreement is reached with examining bodies and employers. A close relationship will be developed with YTS certification. General and specialist modules may be combined in different ways to provide full-time and part-time courses in schools and further education colleges to suit the needs of young people and also of adults entering training or returning to education. For employers, the modular programmes will offer nationally validated standards of attainment, a single record of what has been achieved by each student and, at the same time, the opportunity to negotiate suitable programmes to meet their changing requirements. Colleges will be able to adapt teaching materials and approaches within modular programmes to meet local industry's needs.

25A. The 14-18 development programmes are thus establishing a new framework which will encourage closer links in Scotland between schools and non-advanced further education and between education, training and work. These links are also being strengthened by the Scottish Microelectronics Development Programme, the consideration which is being given to Scottish participation in the TVEI, and by the follow up to the Consultative Committee on the Curriculum's major project on "Education for the Industrial Society". Meantime education authorities have begun the process of reviewing their provision for the 16 to 18 age group and are developing new arrangements, including consortia of schools and further education colleges, to achieve greater effectiveness and flexibility of provision.

