

JVRAMX

cc Press



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON

BBC 2 HORIZON PROGRAMME ON SCIENCE

Thank you for your minute of 16 November, which the Prime Minister saw over the weekend.

I rather think that the Prime Minister did not have time to watch the Horizon programme but, if an opportunity arises to see the video, I will let you know. Meanwhile, Mrs. Thatcher has asked if you would kindly work up in a little more detail your idea that the Government might seek to put forward a more positive view of British science and technology.

I am sending a copy of this minute, and of yours, to Mr. Ingham, since I am sure that the No. 10 Press Office will want to be involved.

(DAVID BARCLAY)
19 November 1984

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Prime Minister

You may like to look at the programme if you have time. I will ask Dr Nicholson for

MR DAVID BARCLAY, No 10

W.0864

BBC 2 HORIZON PROGRAMME ON SCIENCE

16 November 1984

has pleased me

more detailed ideas on X, if you agree.

There was a BBC 2 Horizon programme on Science broadcast last Monday which is being repeated at 1.50 pm this Sunday. The programme deals with many of the current issues of funding of science in this country eg "picking winners", the CERN review, decline of quality through under-funding, defence R&D in, by BBC standards, a balanced way.

Sub 16/11

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The comment is fairly typical of the negative and carping material which is appearing in magazines like 'Nature' and 'New Scientist' and in the national press.

The Prime Minister might find it useful to watch the programme this weekend if possible - alternatively I have a video. She may feel that it would be timely to put forward a more positive view on British science and technology. For example something might be arranged at the time of her visit to Oxford on 7 December for Mr Robert Jackson's All Souls Seminar.

I would be happy to make detailed suggestions in consultation with the Press Office.

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RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

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