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PRIME MINISTER

THE SWITCH TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Secretary of State for Energy has come back to us with an offer to provide £500,000 a year for three years to help finance the switch to science and technology. This is as much as Peter Gregson was expecting (indeed more), and brings the total to the figure which Keith Joseph requested.

So the Government has found its contribution. It remains to persuade the private sector to deliver, and both DES and Sir Robin Nicholson are hoping to secure your help in this. You may remember that in briefing for the meeting Robin Nicholson suggested that you should meet a group of leading industrialists in order to bring home to them the importance of their own role in securing the increased output of technically qualified graduates which they say they require.

Would you be prepared to hold such a meeting, which might also usefully invite views on the relevance of the school curriculum to industry's needs?

DAVID BARCLAY

22 February 1985