

1) Mrs Ryder: to see

2) please p.a.

miss
25/2

Note: I spoke to Daniel Hancock's PS. He will prompt a letter to us from DES Private Office (cleared with DTI) putting forward detailed proposals for such a meeting.

miss
25/2

PRIME MINISTER (1)

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?

miss

Yes miss

DAVID BARCLAY

22 February 1985

W.0185

22 February 1985

MR DAVID BARCLAY, NO 10

MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH OF THE SCIENCE BASE:
SIR ROBIN NICHOLSON'S REPORT

Thank you for copying to me the progress report from the Secretaries of State for Defence and Education and Science, towards implementing the recommendations in my report (20 February 1985). with DB?
PM?
BOX?

I am concerned that the response of the two Departments seems to be feeble and ineffective.

2. Particularly, on the joint design and use of major and specialised facilities, there needs to be more than just an exchange of lists; in considering areas of research of mutual interest, we must ensure that more than the subject areas already noted are fully explored, and the question of the equitable sharing of the cost of current activities is not mentioned.

3. Interchange of staff is extremely important and paragraph (iv) does not begin to meet the recommendation, set out in my report, that two separate schemes to encourage movement of staff from MoD to the Research Council and University system, and vice versa be set up. Staff movement will not simply arise out of other actions; it needs a lot of work.

4. Even on collaborative research grants the aim of increasing Ministry of Defence expenditure from the current £9m per annum to £15m in 3 years shows little imagination, if these figures include planned expenditure on the new MoD-Research Council scheme.

5. Although I cannot suggest that the Prime Minister should effectively monitor action resulting from my report in the long terms, I am reluctant to recommend that responsibility should pass from her to, say, Sir Robert Armstrong's Official Committee on Science and Technology at this stage when the main messages

of my report, which the Prime Minister has commended, are being addressed so inadequately.

6. I therefore propose that if the Prime Minister agrees with my assessment, a further minute from you would be appropriate and I enclose a draft.

7. I am copying this minute and attachments to Sir Robert Armstrong.

RN

ROBIN NICHOLSON

3

RANAFN

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THE
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH OF THE SCIENCE BASE: SIR ROBIN NICHOLSON'S REPORT

your letter of 20 February, reporting progress with Sir Robin Nicholson's proposals
Thank you for ~~the progress report~~ sent on behalf of your Secretary of State and
the Secretary of State for Defence ~~on 20 February.~~

The Prime Minister is concerned that Departments are not implementing Sir Robin Nicholson's recommendations as vigorously as she thinks is necessary.

Particularly, on the joint design and use of major and specialised facilities, there needs to be more than just an exchange of information, and there is no mention of establishing a more equitable way of meeting the costs of existing facilities or of ways to ensure that they are used cost-effectively. A means must be established to ensure that research activity in fields of common interest is not duplicated and that results are shared wherever possible: there are many areas of work apart from lasers and oceanography where MoD and others must work together more effectively.

The actions to encourage movement of staff, (Paragraph (iv) of your Minute) do not go very far towards meeting the recommendation that two separate schemes be set up to encourage movement of staff from the Ministry of Defence to the Research Council and University system and vice versa. The Prime Minister does not believe that sufficient exchange of personnel will take place as a result of an increase in collaborative research and asks that more, imaginative, action be taken than is currently proposed.

The Prime Minister welcomes the fact that Research Councils and the MOD will work out a new collaborative grant scheme to support defence-related research in Universities and Research Council laboratories. However, she expects the response to necessitate expenditure of more than the proposed £15M by MoD on university research once the scheme is launched. The Prime Minister also wonders whether publicity for staff exchange schemes could be disseminated when the collaborative grants scheme is announced.

I am sending ^{27 copies} ~~copies~~ of this letter to Richard Mottram
(Ministry of Defence) ^{ad to} Richard Hatfield and Sir Robin
Nicholson (Cabinet Office).

~~c PS/Secretary of State for Defence~~



The first part of the report deals with the
 results of the experiments conducted in the
 laboratory and the results of the field
 measurements. The second part of the report
 deals with the interpretation of the
 results and the conclusions drawn therefrom.
 The third part of the report deals with
 the recommendations for further work.

22 FEB 1965

