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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

4 November 1985

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October enclosing this one from Mr Doug McAvoy of the National Union of Teachers seeking a meeting with the Prime Minister and my Secretary of State during the union's planned lobby of Parliament on 7 November.

Our advice is that the Prime Minister should decline, noting that the Secretary of State for Education and Science, as the Government Minister responsible for teachers' pay in England and Wales, is willing to make himself available to receive a deputation. You will note however that the NUT proposal is for a deputation including representatives of the Educational Institute of Scotland. We have been in touch with the Scottish Office and they agree that Allan Stewart should be present; they will not know whether their Secretary of State will attend until his return from Japan on 5 November.

This response would be on all fours with the Prime Minister's refusal in September to receive a deputation from the management panel (her letter to Mr Pearman of 26 September).

A draft reply for the Prime Minister's use is attached.

Yours ever,

I M HUGHES
Private Secretary

~~DRAFT~~ LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO MR DOUG McAVOY
OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

You wrote to me on 29 October asking me to meet the officers of your Union and senior representatives of the Educational Institute of Scotland on Thursday, 7 November.

It is not clear to me what ^{purpose would be served} ~~advantage would be gained~~ by our meeting at this stage. Your Union's views are well known to me and they have been communicated direct to me by some of your members in my constituency. I think it would be more appropriate for the meeting you seek to be with the Secretary of State for Education and Science. I know that he is ready to make himself available to meet a deputation. As you are to be accompanied by senior representatives from the Educational Institute of Scotland, he will be joined at the meeting by a Minister from the Scottish Office.

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