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PRIME MINISTER

TEACHERS' PAY

You asked last week if arrangements could be made for you to meet a group of teachers.

To invite a group of teachers to No.10, however small, would sooner or later lead to publicity. This would very likely be embarrassing and would raise teachers' expectations and your profile in the dispute. We should also need to involve DES in any discussion and the meeting would necessarily become more formal and therefore less valuable.

The alternative would be to set a meeting up through the Party.

A meeting at No.10 would again tend to be higher profile. The NUT would demand to lobby you. We could no doubt beat them off, but a row of that kind is better avoided.

A further possibility would be for your agent to arrange something in your constituency. This might be useful, so long as the teachers who saw you were representative and your agent could contrive the meeting without the wider public knowing that it was at your initiative.

I dislike having to offer this rather negative advice. Would it be better now to wait to see developments in the first couple of weeks of January?

[Handwritten signature]

(David Norgrove)

23 December 1985

*I will ask my
Chairman - who is
coming to Cheyenne on
Xmas Eve night*