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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

30 September 1985

Dear Michael.

R & D PRIORITIES ACROSS GOVERNMENT

Many thanks for your letter of 23 September about the first meeting of my MISC 119 Group on 24 September. I was sorry that you were unable to be with us, and that your Department had to be unrepresented. I very much welcome your readiness to play a constructive part in our future work.

As to the postscript to your letter, I recognise of course that each responsible Minister must be able to give an account of his own programme; and Sir Robin Nicholson emphasised at the Group's meeting that the classification of Departments' programmes in Annex 3 to MISC 119(85) 4 represented only a preliminary subjective judgment, and that the analysis required considerable further development. I hope you will have been reassured, on reading the minutes, that spending Ministers will have a full opportunity to clarify the benefits from their programmes; and I look forward to receiving a paper from you by 8 October covering the issues set out in my summing up.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Trade and Industry, Education and Science, Energy, Defence, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chief Secretary Treasury and to Sir Robin Nicholson and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours truly,
Wilde*

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP

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