



Prime Minister

Nov 24/11

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000 23 November 1981

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

*Dear Willie*

#### ECONOMIC BRIEFING

You may have seen an Economic Brief which was sent to the offices of all members of Cabinet on 16 November. This letter explains why I had it sent round in this way.

Each week the Treasury prepare a Brief for the Prime Minister in the House. It has in the past also gone to officials in selected Departments. But I thought it would be valuable to draw it to Cabinet colleagues' attention, since it seems important to ensure that all of us are kept in touch with the progress of our economic policies, know something of our successes (and our weaknesses), and are aware that there are answers, and usually good answers, to most of the irresponsible criticism and suggestions that are thrown to us. The Brief may also be of some use in the preparation of speeches.

If you have not seen it before, it may seem a pretty indigestible bundle - not least because it is written in a very compact (though carefully worded) style. Even so, you may find it useful if you have a chance to tuck the flavour of it into the back of your mind - particularly if you are about to be exposed to any kind of economic cross-examination.

I propose to circulate each weekly edition in the same way in future. In each successive edition any changes or additions are clearly identified, which also helps a little.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, to other members of the Cabinet, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE

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MCS



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

26 November 1981

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Dear Jeffrey

ECONOMIC BRIEFING

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Thank you for your letter of 23 November. I wholly welcome the circulation of the weekly Treasury Economic Brief which I have no doubt will provide invaluable background in dealing with questions about our broad economic policies.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, to other members of the Cabinet, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours  
L.H.H.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP.