



cc 720 JG
INDUSTRIAL POLICY

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON

VERSAILLES WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

Thank you for your minute of 28 February.

The Prime Minister has now signed a letter to President Mitterrand which deals with the question of publication of the Report. We shall despatch the letter, a copy of which is annexed to this minute.

As regards follow-up action on the Report, the Prime Minister has indicated that she does not wish a new group to be formed to prepare a report at each Summit (paragraph 3(c) of your minute). She has not specifically commented on options (a) and (b) in your paragraph 3.

I am copying this minute and its annex to Roger Bone in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A. J. COLES

1 March 1983

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cc Master
Ops.

cc CPES
PIO JD



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 24/83

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 March 1983

Dear Mr. President,

I have received the Report of the Working Group set up after our meeting in Versailles to consider the subject "Technology, Growth and Employment". The Report is a valuable commentary on the important role of Science and Technology in the major economic and social issues which we face in the world today. It contains a number of interesting ideas and proposals which we shall want to follow up in the appropriate international fora and in our own countries.

I feel, and I am sure our colleagues will also take this view, that the quality and relevance of the Report fully justifies your initiative in raising this topic at Versailles and all the subsequent work which your Government has done to ensure the success of the Working Group. I believe that the Report should be published, and I hope we can make arrangements for simultaneous publication in all our countries. Naturally we shall want to discuss the Report at our meeting in Williamsburg and I believe that we should wait until this discussion before deciding on the most appropriate follow-up to the Report. I understand that the Working Group will itself be making some proposals to our Personal Representatives on this matter.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur Francois Mitterrand

JD

Prime Minister

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You agreed to the publication
of this report. A draft letter
to President Mitterrand is attached
for your consideration
28 February 1983

W.0143

TO: MR A J COLES, 10 Downing Street

FROM: DR NICHOLSON, Cabinet Office

cc: Mr Hatfield
Mr Sparrow

TJ
28/2

VERSAILLES WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

President Mitterrand's letter requests the Prime Minister's views on the publication of the Versailles Working Group's Report and on the follow-up to it.

2. On the question of publication, Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 24 February gives the arguments for agreeing to the French desire to publish the Report as soon as possible.

3. On the question of follow-up, there are three options:-

(a) do nothing - the projects will in any case be progressed by the countries which have taken the lead in each case;

(b) arrange for the Personal Representatives to prepare a briefing for Heads of State and Government at each Summit;

(c) form a new group along the lines of the high level Energy Group to prepare a report for Heads of State and Government at No each Summit.

The Heads of Delegations to the Working Group are meeting at the end of April to prepare a briefing for the meeting of the Personal Representatives in May who in turn will of course report to the Summit at the end of May. The Working Group is likely to recommend option (b) or option (c) and I see no need for the Prime Minister to take a view on this in her response to President Mitterrand.

4. I have drafted a response (attached) on the basis of the above

and I have assumed that the Prime Minister would wish to pay a modest tribute to President Mitterrand for his initiative in starting off this work.

5. I am drafting a written PQ and Answer for the Prime Minister, on the assumption that the nations will agree to publication of the Report and that it will be communicated to Parliament by the Prime Minister.

MSN