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MR. BEARPARK

Thank you for the two articles of Alan Walters. I can see no problems in either of these. But you could once again show them to the Treasury. When you do so, could you tell the Treasury that we are sending them these articles not for correction of facts or suggestions on how to put the points better but for them to see whether their publication would cause political embarrassment to Mr. Lawson. You might also suggest to the Treasury that rather than sending the articles to Divisions for comment, they might nominate a senior official, perhaps Alex himself, Michael Scholar or Andrew Turnbull - who could run his eye over them to check that they cause no problems. Please let me know if the Treasury find any difficulties with the two articles which you sent me overnight.

Alas, the news of Alan's lectures in the autumn gives me the colly-wobbles - a very uncomfortable situation 30,000 feet above the Queensland coast! I am thinking of writing to Alan on the following lines:

'Thank you for sending the various articles to me. This is most helpful - it not only improves my understanding of economics, but should also avoid 'problems'. I hope that you can let me see any future articles.

Andy Bearpark has told me about your commitment to give a series of lectures in the autumn and spring on international economics. As you surmise, the media might try to use them to cause us all trouble. Indeed I would not rule out some unscrupulous press person infiltrating himself into the lectures, persuading one of the students to let him have notes or even to produce a surreptitious tape of what you say. Could I therefore ask that you take especial care to avoid anything in those lectures which could cause us all embarrassment. You will also need to be on your guard for planted questions'.

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Could you please tell Sir Robin Butler about the forthcoming lectures and show him the draft letter which I propose to send to Alan. Could you also seek Robin's advice on whether the Treasury, and more particularly the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who should be told about the lectures and about my letter to Alan. My feeling is that it would be best if Robin mentioned this to Mr. Lawson, at a suitable occasion, rather than me telling the Treasury. But I am quite happy to do so if he thinks that is the best route. Finally, could you tell Robin that we are receiving a steady stream of articles from Alan, are vetting them and are showing them to HMT; so far so good.

Let us have a word about this later today.

Sally Hayter

PP

N. L. WICKS

5 August 1988

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MR WICKS

The problem is that the length of Alan Walters' articles is only matched by some of the words I have only glanced at these two very quickly. I do not think he is expecting any reply on them.

P.B. Bearpark

4 August 1988