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PRIME MINISTER

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RATES AND COMMUNITY CHARGE REBATES:  
PRESENTATION OF THE UPRATING OF INCOME SUPPORT

I have read with interest the latest round of correspondence about income support levels which presently rests with John Major's letter of 14 August.

I agree entirely with the point made by Ian Lang, in his letter of 10 August, that we need to extract maximum presentational advantage from our decision to uprate income support to cover the average minimum contribution to domestic rates. As he says it is a substantial and expensive concession and one for which we must receive full credit. I recognise that there are problems concerning the way in which the compensation for domestic rates might be carried forward to the community charge and I would not wish to pre-empt any decisions on this. However I do believe that we should not let these difficulties stand in our way of presenting in the very best light the new income support levels (whatever they may be) when they are announced in the autumn. It is an opportunity we should not miss and clearly careful thought will need to be given to how best this might be achieved.

I am sending a copy of this minute to the members of E(LF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

30 August 1987

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