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PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Jenkin has considered the points you wished to be put to him.

- (i) He does not feel Harry Jordan is suitable.
- (ii) He agrees that the Inquiry needs to be given a clear picture of the ground it must cover, whether in the terms of reference or in the statement, or by briefing.
- (iii) He recognises the need to publicise the work of the Inquiry, though some parts of its work will be better conducted in private.
- (iv) He accepts the need for a timetable.

As you requested, he has expanded a bit further on the merits of David Widdicombe. The fact that he once stood as a Labour candidate is seen as no impediment and perhaps even an advantage as one of the aims of the Inquiry will be to mobilise the "responsible" left. His other qualities seem well suited to the appointment. I consulted the Home Secretary informally. He did not know Mr. Widdicombe well but had a generally favourable impression of him.

Agree?

*- I will ask N-L further in view of his comments*

Both the Chancellor and Mr. Tebbit urge the appointment of at least one member of the group with an understanding of business.

Agree Mr. Jenkin be asked to respond to this in producing names for the other members?

*AT*

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2 January 1985