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PRIME MINISTER

NURSE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

Last year, the Health Authority Chairmen commissioned a study on the problems of nurse retention and recruitment and how they should be overcome. This will now be published later this month.

Bill Doughty, Chairman of the North West Thames and one of your guests at Chequers two weeks ago, has now sent me privately an advance copy. Apparently, circulation of the document has been kept on a very restricted basis thus far. The report points to significant problems in the areas of pay, workload and management approach. But it could have come out a lot worse from the Government point of view, and I doubt if it will cause any great problems when it is published. In particular, the structure of the pay review body recommendations is tailored closely to the problems as defined in the report.

*Rec.*

PAUL GRAY  
6 May 1988

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