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PRIME MINISTER

NURSES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING: PROJECT 2000

You may recall that Project 200 - a report by the United Kingdom Central Council on nurses' education and training - came in for some criticism at your second Chequers NHS Seminar. The main complaint was that it focussed too much on general education and too little on specific training.

John Moore's minute of 12 May, attached, sets out his proposals for handling the report. John O'Sullivan's minute of 13 May suggests you should accept his approach.

John Moore does seem to have addressed the concerns expressed at Chequers. And it is particularly welcome that he aims substantially to increase the proportion of work done by auxiliary staff and "widen the gate" into nursing by admitting people with lower qualifications.

In his minute to you John Moore does not address the question of costs or the links to the NHS review. These aspects are, however, covered in his minute (also attached) to the Chief Secretary. He envisages the annual extra costs building up to some £50 million. He sees no difficulties about the link to the NHS review; but proposes to protect that position by indicating at the end of his proposed letter to the Chairman of UKCC (last attachment) that a more definite statement on the proposals and implementation of the changes will be made later in the year.

Content to agree John Moore's proposed approach, subject to comments from the Chief Secretary, particularly on the cost implications?

Recd.

PAUL GRAY
13 May 1988

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