

file arts
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PRIME MINISTER

NHS MEETING

I attach papers for the NHS meeting in case it is possible for one still to be held this side of the weekend. The papers are divided into three folders. The first, on handling the overall presentation, contains Richard Wilson's suggested steering brief for the meeting. As you will see, he suggests first that you look at the overall presentation of the White Paper then go on to the remaining issues of substance.

The Cabinet Office brief in the second folder records the White Paper's sins of omission or commission relative to what has been agreed earlier by the Group. Also in that folder is a note by the Policy Unit which picks up on the issue of GP budgets as the other remaining issue of substance on which Mr Major and Mr Clark have yet to agree, together with short papers from Mr Major on that issue and the Family Planning Service.

The next folder contains the chapters by the territorial Ministers, together with Cabinet Office and Policy Unit briefs. Of these, the Welsh draft is the tricky one which goes off in its own direction on a number of issues. You will want to consider whether to tackle each of these individually as Richard Wilson suggests or to tackle Mr Walker's whole approach head on, as the Policy Unit suggests.

The other missing part of the White Paper is the Treasury contribution on fiscal incentives. You do not need that this side of Christmas but will want the Chancellor to reassure the Group that it will reflect the decisions agreed in July.

You will want to end the meeting with a look at the timetable. You have achieved your aim of putting the pressure on to get

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the review wrapped up in good time. The question is whether, as Richard Wilson hints, you will want to allow an extra week in the New Year to ensure that the drafting and presentation of the White Paper is absolutely right.

DOMINIC MORRIS

21 December 1988

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