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PRIME MINISTER

IMPLEMENTATION OF NHS WHITE PAPER IN SCOTLAND

Earlier in the autumn you saw a report on implementation of the NHS White Paper in Scotland. You commented that it was generally encouraging. But you asked for an up-date in due course on progress in identifying candidates for self-governing hospital status; and also asked to be consulted on the proposed membership of the Management Group.

The Scottish Office letter at Flag A represents the response. On self-governing status it reports only two formal expressions of interest so far, but makes some mildly encouraging noises about the future. On management arrangements a further letter is promised once the new Chief Executive for the NHS in Scotland, Don Cruickshank, has done further work.

Ian Whitehead (Flag B) says that progress in Scotland has been disappointing compared with England, but agrees that there are some reasons for optimism. He also reports that Malcolm Forsyth has formed a very good impression of Don Cruickshank.

Content:

- (i) to await the promised further report on central management arrangements?
- (ii) to ask for a further progress report, in particular covering the position on self-governing hospitals, in six months?

Recg.

(PAUL GRAY)

8 December 1989

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