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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1990

NORTHWICK PARK: CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Thank you for your letter of 13 September covering a copy of the interim report by the Steering Group set up to consider proposals to close the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) at Northwick Park.

I submitted your letter and the report to the Prime Minister over the weekend. The Prime Minister has noted that the MRC has re-examined the original proposals for transfer of the CRC's work, and are now proposing to devolve a greater part of the work to eight regional centres of excellence with only 30 per cent of the work going to Hammersmith. She understands this should reduce the cost of establishing a new centre for clinical research at Hammersmith.

The Prime Minister is content to await the further reports from the Steering Group on the closure, and for the MRC's plans for the revised transfer proposals. She understands that the Secretaries of State for Health and Education should be able to take a firm decision on closure of the CRC at Northwick Park at that stage.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Crowne (Department of Education and Science) and to Sir Robin Butler, along with copies of your letter and the Steering Group's interim report.

(BARRY H. POTTER)

Mrs. Helen Shirley-Quirk,
Department of Health.

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