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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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PRIME MINISTER

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND TAXATION IN THE LONGER TERM

Following the Cabinet discussion on 9 February, Peter Rees and I have, as you know, been working on the text of a Green Paper on the longer term prospects for public expenditure and taxation. The plan is to publish it on Budget Day.

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2. I attach the latest version of the text. Work on it is still proceeding, and some passages referring to particular Departmental programmes are still being cleared informally with Principal Finance Officers. But the work is, I believe, sufficiently far advanced to be worth showing to colleagues.
 3. We agreed on 9 February that those colleagues who wish to see the text should let me know; and I have had some half dozen requests. But, given the potential interest of the Green Paper, I am in fact copying this minute and the draft to all Cabinet colleagues, the Chief Whip, the Attorney General, and Sir Robert Armstrong. Given the risk of leaks, I should be grateful if all concerned would respect the CMO classification. Given the printers deadlines, I have to ask that any comments on the text should reach me by 5 March.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N.L.'.

N.L.

29 February 1984