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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
071-270 3000

7 November 1990

Barry Potter Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

Dear Barry

Possible Speaking Note for P.M.

**AUTUMN STATEMENT CABINET**

You asked for a form of words that the Prime Minister might include in her summing up tomorrow. I suggest she might speak on the following lines:

"I would like to thank the Chief Secretary in particular for carrying through the arduous and complex negotiations to a successful conclusion. It has clearly not been an easy Survey but I am sure we have got the right result and one we can present successfully in the Country and in the markets.

However I would like to repeat the Chancellor's point. We need to get the balance right between emphasising the additions to programmes that we have been able to afford on the one hand and the fact that this has been a tough settlement on the other. I would be very damaging if the commentators and markets took this as a sign of a pre-election relaxation of policy. I would ask colleagues, therefore, not to exaggerate the scale of increases."

Yours

JG

cc Peter Owen (Cabinet Office)

JOHN GIEVE  
Principal Private Secretary