

1. MR. WHITMORE *HW*
2. PRIME MINISTER

Derek Rayner now reports on the overall review of Government Statistical Services. He recommends:

1. circulation of the report to Ministers; ✓
2. a personal minute from you covering the report. You *x* very rarely use personal minutes, and it might be better to do this in the form of a letter from Clive; ✓
3. *Why - it is part of the larger statement I mentioned.* *?* a statement to Parliament about completion of the review and the scale of the proposals - either by you, or by the Lord President and Minister of State;
4. a target date of the end of March for decisions on the recommendations within each Department; ✓
5. publication of the report to Parliament and the public, together with a detailed recommendation of the decisions reached, in due course - preferably with the same timing as the proposed White Paper on efficiency and waste; ✓
6. CSD Ministers, assisted by John Boreham to oversee implementation; ✓
7. new instructions from you to Robert Armstrong about the role of the Head of the Government Statistical Service - again this is drafted as a personal minute from you but can easily go in the form of a minute from Clive on your behalf.

/The

The Statistical Services were, in May 1979, costing £40 million per annum and 8800 staff. The full recommendations would save £20 million per annum and 1700 staff. Coupled with other work in hand this could reduce the workforce to 6000 by 1984 at an annual cost of £75 million.

Agree recommendations 1-7?

It seems to me that an oral statement should be made of the decisions have been made.

Agree that Clive should write to Ministers, and minute

Sir Robert Armstrong, on your behalf?

Yes

Would you prefer CSD Ministers to make a statement about completion of the Review?

If they wish not.

Prime Minister.

I think you can agree all the recommendations: they are all sensible.

I suggest that I should write to Ministers and to Sir Robert Armstrong on your behalf, as Mike suggests.

I do not think that you need make a statement about the review yourself. This can be left to Lord Soames and Mr Hayhoe.

7 January 1981

*John
7.1.81.*