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CONFIDENTIAL



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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SWIP 3AG 01-233 3000

22 March 1984

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

JAGUAR PRIVATISATION

You wrote to me on 1 March about the date of the Jaguar flotation.

I agree that 1 May is no longer practical and that we should therefore plan for 24 July. I have looked at this timing in the light of Kleinwort Benson's views about the possible effects on BT of a summer sale of Jaguar. My present view is that Jaguar's sale will not add substantially to the difficulties of selling BT and that we should therefore press ahead.

You have pointed out the work that still has to be done before the flotation can take place and in particular the need for the Government to reach a decision about future funding. I hope that the subject can be brought forward for Ministerial decision as soon as possible and in any event before Easter.

Copies of this letter go to those who received yours.

NIGEL LAWSON

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IND POL: BL P77

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