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FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY  
DATE 26 October 1984

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PRIME MINISTER

Tom King's minute to you of 23 October sets out the various changes in provision for employment and training measures which he and I have agreed in this year's Survey.

2 I welcome the fact that it has been possible to reduce total provision for the measures compared with the last expenditure White Paper, but nonetheless to maintain their expected impact on unemployment at broadly its present level.

3 I note what Tom says about the need to look again over the coming months at ways of increasing the effect of the measures. In view of this, I must stress the importance of ensuring that decisions reached as part of the Survey are not unravelled by subsequent piecemeal changes. To be credible these decisions must stick, and the clear presumption has to be that any new initiatives are paid for from existing provision.


4 I am in favour of the more positive presentation of the measures which Tom proposes. I think we should be careful though to avoid giving the impression that the measures have become a permanent feature of the landscape, or that there is any commitment to maintain future expenditure on them at current levels.

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5 I cannot agree to an announcement of our decisions on special measures before the Autumn Statement. It would in my view be wrong to give details of any individual programme until the public expenditure exercise as a whole has been satisfactorily completed and the outcome endorsed by Cabinet. And, in any case, if information were allowed to dribble out a coherent presentation of our plans would become that much more difficult.

6 I am copying this to E(A) colleagues and to Sir Robert Armstrong.



PETER REES

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Manpower - Special Emp. Measure - A10

