



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

cc: P.Gen.
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 28 November 1984

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Dear Callum,

BL

The Prime Minister is concerned at the progress which is being made in developing proposals for the privatisation of various parts of BL.

At its meeting on 4 April, E(A) asked that work should be undertaken to separate Leyland Bus from Leyland Trucks and that options for its disposal at the earliest possible date should be prepared. At the same time, E(A) asked that the possibilities for rationalising the UK commercial vehicle industry should be explored. In responding to the corporate plan in May (my letter to you of 14 May), the Prime Minister welcomed the suggestion for a study of the steps that would be needed to turn Landrover into a separately saleable entity. She suggested that a time limit of three months be set for this work.

The May report of the official group on BL recommended that the Board of BL should be invited to bring forward as soon as possible detailed proposals on how the privatisation of Unipart by mid-1985 might best be achieved. In July E(A) agreed that Unipart should acquire Edmunds Walker in order to enhance the saleability of the enlarged company.

The Prime Minister would be grateful for a report on progress that is being made in each of these areas. She hopes that proposals will soon be brought to E(A) for decision.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,
 Andrew Turnbull

Callum McCarthy, Esq.,
 Department of Trade and Industry

(Andrew Turnbull)

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