



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

RICHARD HATFIELD

CENTRAL UNIT ON PURCHASING

The Prime Minister was grateful for Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 4 December about the location of the proposed Central Unit on Purchasing.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposal to establish a joint Treasury/Cabinet Office unit along the lines of the Financial Management Unit; and she agrees that Ministerial responsibility for the Unit should be shared between the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Chief Secretary. She has no objection to the proposed title for the Unit.

The Prime Minister does, however, attach importance to the two points made by Sir Robin Ibbs in paragraph 4 of his minute to her of 11 December. She would be grateful if these could be taken fully into account, and she would like to be consulted about the selection of somebody from the private sector to head the Unit.

I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), Mr. Thomas (Lord Gowrie's Office) and Mr. Beesley (Efficiency Unit).

(DAVID BARCLAY)
13 December 1984

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE