

PRIME MINISTER

REVIEW OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND MANAGEMENT

Lord Gowrie has submitted his report on the Review. The Review itself is at Flag A, his report, which summarises the Review, at Flag B, and his covering letter at Flag C. Sir Robin Ibbs' comments are at Flag D.

The Review identifies potential savings of up to £50 million a year which could be achieved through better departmental management of accommodation. It notes in particular that, while on the one hand there is over provision of expensive space, at the same time the working environment for civil servants is often tatty and depressing. Lord Gowrie proposes that you should welcome the Review and ask for action documents to be commissioned from all government departments. He also proposes the Review should be published, and that he should write a preface to it. Sir Robin Ibbs agrees, but also suggests that departments be asked to regard the three year implementation period as a maximum, and that an interim statement be required in two years' time on accommodation savings already achieved.

Content that I should respond to Lord Gowrie indicating:

- (i) you welcome the Review and wish action documents to be commissioned from all government departments within three months.
- (ii) That the Review should be published, and that he should write a preface.
- (iii) That MPO coordinate follow up and that a general progress report be prepared in 12 months.
- (iv) That the three year implementation period should be seen as marking the top end of the range, and you would like to see a short statement in two years of savings already achieved.

MEA

MARK ADDISON

4 July 1985

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Yes - Hartigan
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