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From the Private Secretary

15 June 1981

Blind copies to
J. Hodgkin
D. Wilson
A. Wright

Sir Peter Parker and British Rail

The Prime Minister is aware that your Department and the CSD are trying to establish a basis for the renewal of Sir Peter Parker's contract.

As you know, the CPRS report seriously questions full acceptance of British Rail's electrification proposals. Without prejudging discussion of the report, the Prime Minister is concerned that the Government should not find itself in a position where, shortly after extending Sir Peter's contract on terms which imply satisfaction with his work and confidence in the contribution he still has to make, there is then disagreement (which would quickly become public knowledge) between the Government and Sir Peter over British Rail's long-term plans in general and the electrification proposals in particular. She would therefore like a report on the state of the negotiations, with special regard to likely developments when the Government responds to British Rail's investment proposals.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Wiggins (HM Treasury), Jim Buckley (Lord President's Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

LR

Copy in Appointments

Anthony Mayer, Esq.,
Department of Transport.