

Prime Minister:

Content with Sir Robert Armstrong's suggestion on the firm understanding as a report to you after a year?

Ref. A08687

MR. RICKETT

Yes Mr

TF
16/6.

House of Lords Select Committee: Report of the Official Committee on Science and Technology (STO)

Thank you for your minute of 11th June, recording the discussion which Dr. Nicholson and I had with the Prime Minister that morning.

2. We are amending the draft response to the Select Committee to take account of the Prime Minister's decisions.

3. On the point in paragraph three (a) of your minute, I would take the Prime Minister's decision that the system of reviews of research should be established for an initial trial period as essentially a matter of internal self-discipline, rather than as something to be included in the published report. If we say in the report that the system is being established for a trial period, that will invite another raft of questions and suggestions for further changes.

4. I therefore propose that there should be no reference to a trial period in the published report; but we will of course be reporting to the Prime Minister on the initial experience of the system of reviews of research at the end of the trial period, so that she can then take a decision whether to confirm the system or make further changes.

A new hierarchy!
ms.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

16th June, 1982



File SW
Parliament

10 DOWNING STREET

cc DES

From the Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT
Cabinet Office

House of Lords Select Committee: Report of
the Official Committee on Science and Technology
(STO)

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute (Ref: A08687) about the response to the Select Committee's Report and is content that there should be no reference to a trial period for the system of reviews and research in the published report on the understanding that she will have an opportunity to review progress at the end of the trial period.

TIM FLESHER

21 June, 1982

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