

Prime Minister: 1

Do you agree with
Dr. Nicholson's proposal to



W.0325

MR MICHAEL SCHOLAR

24 May 1983

Yes
no
postpone the seminar
until September?
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PRIME MINISTER'S SEMINAR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY 25/5

I need to have instructions as to how to handle the Prime Minister's seminar on Science, Technology and Industry over the election period.

2. The present position is that Lancaster House has been booked for the agreed date, 8 July, and there has been a first round of discussions between Departments on the content of the seminar when there was broad agreement with the draft I prepared dated 31 March, a copy of which was sent to you.

3. If we are to continue to plan on 8 July as the date, it would be necessary to take further actions over the next two or three weeks. In particular it would be necessary to approach the main speakers to ensure that they are happy to speak and are available on 8 July. We would also need to make some of the administrative arrangements and to prepare the guest list so that invitations could go out immediately after the Election.

Should
not

4. The alternative is to abandon the 8 July date which no longer has any particular significance and to postpone the seminar to, say, mid-September, leaving the precise date to be fixed after the Election. This would avoid the need to approach the speakers on a provisional basis, allow Ministers with new Portfolios more time to decide on their contributions to the seminar and allow the Prime Minister greater opportunity to have an input into the detailed content and scope of the seminar.

5. My own view is that there are real advantages in holding this seminar early in the new Administration. The subject matter is of fundamental importance to a number of policies expressed in the

Conservative Party Manifesto. However I don't think this advantage extends to a case for having the seminar on 8 July rather than in mid-September, so my own recommendation in view of the administrative difficulties which I refer to above, would be to re-schedule the seminar for a date in September and to re-start discussion of its scope and content immediately after the Election.

RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientist, CPRS

cc: Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr Sparrow
Mr Courtney

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24 MAY 1963



Science
Technology
March 83



Sub

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON

The Prime Minister has now seen your minute of 24 May about the forthcoming seminar on science, technology and industry. She agrees with your suggestion that the seminar should be postponed from 8 July until September. Perhaps this might best be arranged for the week beginning 5 September or, possibly, on 12 or 13 September. Later in that month it is possible that the Prime Minister may be abroad.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Spence and Mr. Courtney.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

27 May 1983



CABINET OFFICE

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W.0355

31 May 1983

Mr Oscar Roith
Chief Engineer and Scientist
Department of Industry
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London SW1

Dear Oscar

PRIME MINISTER'S SEMINAR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY

Because of the Election the Prime Minister has decided that her seminar on Science and Technology and Industry should be postponed from 8 July until some time in September. We are exploring dates in the weeks beginning 5 and 12 September and I will let you know as soon as a new date is fixed.

Yours ever

for *Uheadcar*
ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientist

cc: Mr Sparrow
Mr Gregson
→ Mr Flesher
Mr Caines
Members of CPRS
Mr Courtney
Dr Harrison
Dr Miles
Mr Harris
Mrs Ransom
Mr Williamson
Mr Hatfield
Dr Challis, D/Energy
Dr Holdgate, DoE/D/TP
Dr Elton, MAFF
Dr Pope, MoD

PS/Mr Jenkin
PS/Mr Baker
PS/Sir Keith Joseph
PS/Mr Waldegrave
PS/Mr Shelton
PS/Chancellor of the Exchequer
PS/Chief Secretary, Treasury
Mr Ingham, 10 Downing Street
Mr Stubbs, MPO
Mr Gill, DoI
Mr Williams, DoI
Mr Bird, DES
Mr Tanner, DES
Mr Bailey, HMT