

W.0445

PRIME MINISTER

SEMINAR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY

Prime Minister: ^{cc} Sue Goodwin!

Do you agree that
the programme devised by
Dr Nicholas is on the right
lines? If so, shall I ask
him to prepare the first draft
of your speech, perhaps in
consultation with Kenneth Baker?

Revised

Yes please

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15/7

At the start of the election campaign, you agreed to my suggestion that it would be best to postpone your seminar on 'Science, Technology and Industry' until the autumn. Your office proposed the date of 12 September and Lancaster House has been booked for the occasion.

2. Attached is a new draft programme for your consideration. The longer time which will have elapsed since the 'Horizon' programme and the fact that the seminar is now occurring at the start of a Parliament made me feel that the form of the seminar should be re-cast somewhat.

3. The seminar is now firmly based on the potential contribution of science and technology to the first of the 'five great tasks of the future' given in the Government's Manifesto.

4. I have in mind that in introducing the seminar you would refer to the tremendous Government investment in Research and Development (£3.5 billion per annum) and pose some questions to the industrialists, scientists and financiers in the audience as to how they propose to use this money plus the private sector's own resources to generate a substantially better performance in science and technology based industries in this country.

5. Although some Ministers would also be involved in formal presentations during the day, the bulk of the time would be taken up with presentations and discussion from those who generate and create wealth from our science and technology.

6. DES Ministers have indicated broad agreement with the aims and content of the seminar. At Mr Kenneth Baker's request, I discussed

the draft programme with him yesterday, as a result of which a few
changes were made, especially the introduction of a specific section
on Defence. This has not yet been cleared with MoD Ministers.

7. The next step is to invite the speakers and prepare the guest list
but you may first wish to comment on the scope and content of the
proposed programme.

8. I believe the seminar could have a key role in generating new
enthusiasm and determination to exploit properly this country's
scientific achievements. Since the programme is designed as an
integrated whole, I very much hope you will be able to chair both the
morning and afternoon sessions.

RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

cc: Sir Robert Armstrong

Cabinet Office
15 July 1983



huz

ROJ

cc Sue Goodchild

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR NICHOLSON

SEMINAR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY

The Prime Minister has now seen your minute of 15 July about the arrangements for the Seminar on Science, Technology and Industry which is being held on 12 September. Mrs Thatcher thought the proposed programme excellent and should be grateful if you could now proceed with the preparations. As to speakers, you might like to know that the Prime Minister has expressed a preference for Lord Weinstock for the session on the large company; Sir Clive Sinclair for the small company; Sir Jack Lewis for the university scientist; Sir Ernest Harrison for the defence session and Sir Henry Chilver to sum up at the end of the morning. It is likely that the Prime Minister will wish to stay for the whole of the seminar.

Mrs Thatcher has also asked that preliminary thought should now be given to her speech of introduction to the Seminar and she would be grateful if, in consultation with the Minister for Information Technology, you could produce the first draft to reach us please by Wednesday, 7 September.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

18 July, 1983

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SECOND DRAFT PROGRAMME

SEMINAR ON "SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY", 12 SEPTEMBER 1983

Chairman, The Prime Minister

Seminar Theme: The purpose of this seminar is to discuss the creation of wealth from science and technology which is a major component of the Government's aim to create an economy which provides stable prices, lasting prosperity and employment for the British people. The seminar will consider the generation, financing and exploitation of innovation based on science and technology.

Morning Session

10.00 Introduction: The Prime Minister

Topic I: Innovation through Research and Development

(a) The large company

10.20 John Harvey-Jones (ICI) or Lord Weinstock (GEC) or Owen Green (BTR)
or John Collyear (AE)

(b) The small company

10.35 Two speakers from Clive Sinclair (Sinclair Research),
Martin Wood (Oxford Instruments), Jack Leonard (Eurotherm),
Peter Michael (Microconsultants).

(c) The university scientist

10.55 Sir Jack Lewis (Cambridge) or Alec Gambling (Southampton) or
John Lawrenson (Leeds) or Sir Rex Richards (Oxford) or
John Kingman (Oxford/SERC).

11.10 Discussion

- (d) Applications of defence R & D
11.40 Secretary of State for Defence
11.55 Lord Weinstock (GEC) or Sir Ernest Harrison (Racal)

12.10 Discussion

12.35 Summing up: Secretary of State for Trade and Industry or
✓ Sir Henry Chilver

12.45 Break.

Afternoon Session

Topic II: Stimulation and Financing of Innovation

- (a) Stimulation of Innovation by Government
2.15 Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology

(b) Technology transfer in the private sector
2.30 Diarmuid Downs (Ricardo).

(c) Private sector financing
2.45 Lord Caldecote (Investors in Industry)
3.00 David Cooksey (Advent Venture Capital)

3.15 Discussion

Topic III: Maintaining the strength of the science asset base

- (a) Government's role
3.40 Secretary of State for Education and Science

(b) Industry's role
3.55 Sir Geoffrey Allen (Unilever) or Charles Reece (ICI) or
Derek Roberts (GEC)

(c) The Research Councils' role

4.10 Sir David Phillips (ABRC) or John Kingman (SERC)

4.25 Discussion

4.50 Summing up: Prime Minister or Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry.

5.00 Close.

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Cabinet Office
15 July 1983