



CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister (4)

MUS 15/9

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MERCURY RESTRUCTURING

I have just heard from Eric Sharp, the Chairman of Cable and Wireless that AT & T had notified him on 12 September that they were not prepared to invest in Mercury at this point of time. As my office has already explained to yours, we no longer, therefore, require a meeting today.

2 You will wish to know, however, that Cable and Wireless and BP have now decided to look again at the possibility of finding strong UK partners before taking any further steps to seek a transatlantic partner. This move will be easier for us to digest while taking the Telecommunications Bill through the House of Commons, although it will also mean that Mercury's task of breaking into the all important United States market will be more uphill.

3 I am copying this minute to Geoffrey Howe, Leon Brittan, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A.P.

C P

15 September 1983

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Future of the  
Post office, 1977



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MR. JOHN COLEMAN (107-101) (107-101)

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