

PRIME MINISTER

The British Association for the Advancement of Science are to launch a new journal designed to stimulate industrial interest in science and technology. The launch is planned for Wednesday, 21 March, at the House of Lords, and will be attended by heads of major British companies. Robin Nicholson explains in his note attached that Sir Alastair Pilkington will be writing to invite you to attend and, no doubt, to make a speech.

Unfortunately the date proposed is awkward for you, coming as it does between the European Council (which ends the day before) and your speech to the Central Council the following Saturday. What is more, on the day itself you will need to find time to prepare a Statement to the House about the Council.

Agree that for diary reasons we should decline this regretfully, but send a message of support and ask Kenneth Baker to represent the Government?

Repet

mt

DMS

22 December 1983





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

DR NICOLSON

British Association for the Advancement of Science

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 21 December about the new journal being launched by the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Prime Minister was interested to hear about this development, but regrets that it will not be possible for her to attend the launch of the journal on 21 March since it comes at a particularly busy time. She agrees that Mr. Kenneth Baker might attend instead, assuming of course that this is acceptable to the BAAS. She is also content with your proposal that she should send a message, and in due course I should be grateful if you could provide a draft.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield.

*David Barclay*

David Barclay

23 December 1983



21 December 1983

PRIME MINISTER

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) is keen to take up some of the more urgent themes of your Seminar on Science, Technology and Industry by fostering closer links between the scientific community and British industry.

2. As you know, the BAAS is an old-established and prestigious organisation which has an excellent track record of achievement with schools and young scientists. It has not previously paid much attention to science and technology in industry although many noted industrialists have held honorary positions in the Association.

3. Now the BAAS has set up a Science and Industry Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Alastair Pilkington (who is also this year's President of the Association). The Committee also includes Sir Brian Kellett (Chairman of the TI Group), Sir Graham Wilkins (Chairman of the Beecham Group) and Dr Derek Roberts (Technical Director of GEC).

4. The Committee are proposing a number of imaginative ventures: a new journal, a corporate membership scheme, conferences on topics connected with science and the economy, media debates and an exhibition at which scientists display their wares to industry.



5. It is planned to launch the new journal at midday on Wednesday, 21 March in the Cholmondeley Room of the House of Lords. I understand that Sir Alastair Pilkington will be writing to ask if you would be willing to open the occasion. The journal is designed to stimulate the interest of industry in the latest and best science and technology. It is to be published by Home and Law Magazines (publishers of the Law Society journal), will be directed primarily at senior management in industry, but also distributed to universities, schools and BAAS members. It is to be self-financing from advertising revenue, although the BAAS will have a complete control over both advertising and editorial content. The scientific articles are to be written by scientists of distinction, but will make the implications of their work clear to industrialists. The first announcement of the journal (to be called 'Link-up') will be made in January when a brochure will be issued. I attach a copy of the first page, which quotes the concluding sentences of your speech at the Seminar and messages from Sir Alastair Pilkington and Sir Terence Beckett.

6. My view is that the BAAS plan is an ambitious one, but that it is a good example of one type of initiative which we had wanted to follow your Seminar. There is no doubt that a journal of this sort would fill a gap - there is nothing comparable published at present and the need for industrialists to be better informed on science is self-evident.

7. The BAAS intend the audience on 21 March to be British industry at Chairman or Chief Executive level. The occasion and the future prospects for the journal would be enormously enhanced by your presence and I hope you may feel able to accept Sir Alastair Pilkington's invitation. If this is not possible, I suggest that Mr Kenneth Baker opens the occasion, perhaps with a message from you.

8. I am copying this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*RBN*  
ROBIN B NICHOLSON



"One of the most exciting things about our times is the speed with which science can turn into technology, and technology can turn into valuable and fascinating products. .... Ours is not only an age of discovery. It is an age of application - devastating in its swiftness; enthralling in its surprises; remorseless in its competitiveness. Our business is to be the leaders of that age - to apply our science and apply ourselves to building the industries of the future."

- Margaret Thatcher : Prime Minister.

"Britain has a proud tradition of scientific achievement which in many fields continues to lead the world. Science, properly applied, will improve the living standards and well-being of us all."

- Sir Alastair Pilkington :  
President of the British  
Association for the  
Advancement of Science.

"The prosperity of British Industry and of those who work in it is directly related to the efficiency with which we can identify and apply commercially-viable science-based innovation."

- Sir Terence Beckett :  
Director-General of  
the Confederation of  
British Industry.



SCIENCE + TECH: Public Seminars

March 83

21 DEC 1983

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*OK Mrs?*

W.046

13 January 1984

*mb*  
*13/1*  
MR DAVID BARCLAY

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

I refer to your minute of 23 December. I have now heard from Mr Baker's office that he will be happy to speak at the launch of the British Association's journal on 21 March. We expect a formal invitation from the British Association to Mr Baker very shortly. In the meantime we are preparing a draft of the message for the Prime Minister to send to the occasion via Mr Baker.

I am copying this minute to Richard Hatfield.

*conquer* *RBN*

ROBIN B NICHOLSON





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7 6

13 JAN 1984

CONFIDENTIAL



Susan

Yes. The message is  
not needed until  
21 March.

David,

When looking out <sup>Dms</sup>  
2/2

these past papers I  
noticed that Dr. N's  
office have said that  
draft reply (see your  
letter of 23.12) will  
not arrive until  
end of Feb!

Are you content  
to wait?

Susan  
2.2.84





DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
1-19 VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON SW1H 0ET

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GTN 215)  
(Switchboard) 215 7877

*From the Minister of State  
for Industry and  
Information Technology*  
RT HON KENNETH BAKER MP

Sir Alastair Pilkington  
British Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
Fortress House  
23 Savile Row  
LONDON  
W1X 1AB

cc PS/Mr Butcher  
Mr Roith  
Mr Croft  
Mr Solomon  
Mr Barclay - No 10  
Dr Nicholson - Cabinet  
Office  
Dr Copestake - on File

| February 1984

*Dear Sir Alastair*

Mr Baker has asked me to thank you for your letter of  
20 January inviting him to speak at the launch of your new  
journal on 21 March 1984. He is very pleased to accept and  
looks forward to meeting you and the British Association's  
guests on that occasion.

*Yours sincerely*

*Steve Mummery*

pp NEIL McMILLAN  
Private Secretary

*will request  
if required*



Science + Tech March 83  
Seminar

23 FEB 1983







PS/Mr Baker

cc PS/Mr Butcher  
Mr Roith  
Mr Croft  
Mr Solomon  
Mr Barclay - No. 10  
Dr Nicholson -  
Cabinet Office

BRITISH ASSOCIATION: INVITATION TO LAUNCH NEW JOURNAL: 21 MARCH 1984.

Sir Alistair Pilkington invites Mr Baker to speak at a luncheon at which the British Association will launch a new journal. The British Association had originally approached the Prime Minister who was unable to accept; she had suggested that Mr Baker might take the engagement.

This venture is designed to increase BA's activities in the industrial area and it is coupled with the launch of a scheme for industrial corporate membership. BA has been developing its industrial role recently. It links this emphasis to the Prime Minister's Seminar on Science, Technology and Industry last September.

I understand that Mr Baker has already said that he will accept this invitation. I have provided a Private Secretary reply so that the acceptance can be sent in Mr Baker's absence.

T B Copestake  
Head RTP1  
Room 823  
Bressenden Place

213 4510

27 January 1984



**DRAFT**

Addressed to:

Sir Alistair Pilkington  
British Association for the Advancement  
of Science  
Fortless House  
23 Saville Row  
London  
W1X 1AB

**File No.**

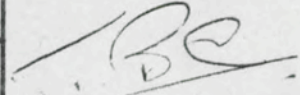
TPU/20/254

Copies to:  
PS/Mr Butcher  
Mr Roith  
Mr Croft  
Mr Solomon  
Mr Barclay - No. 10  
Dr Nicholson - Cabinet  
Office  
Dr Copestake - on  
File

Originated by:  
*(Initials and date)*

TBC 27.1.84

Seen by:  
*(Initials and date)*



Enclosures:

Type for signature of

PS/Mr Baker

*(Initials and date)*

**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Mr Baker has asked me to thank you for your letter of 20 January inviting him to speak at the launch of your new journal on 21 March 1984. He is very pleased to accept and looks forward to meeting you and the British Association's guests on that occasion.



4 19

~~Baker's Office~~  
1 Pu / 20 / 25 4

W.04

3 January 1984

TO: MR ROITH, DTI

cc: Dr Copestake ✓

FROM+ DR NICHOLSON

Mr Courtney  
Dr Harrison

I hope you will feel that you can encourage Mr Baker to accept this invitation.

In the initial discussions which the BAAS had with Barry Copestake and ourselves, there was some confusion between two events - namely the launch of a new journal and the launch of an industrial subscriber system. It is now clear that the 21 March occasion will be devoted to the launch of the new journal which, as I say in my minute to Neil McMillan, seems to be an entirely worthy initiative following the Prime Minister's seminar.

MSW



W.03

3 January 1984

TO: MR MCMILLAN, DTI

FROM: Dr NICHOLSON, Cabinet Office

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

- Attached is a copy of a minute which I sent to the Prime Minister  
- before Christmas, and a copy of the reply from her office.  
As you will see from my minute to the Prime Minister, I believe that this launch of a new journal by the British Association for the Advancement of Science is an excellent follow-up to some of the things which were discussed at the Prime Minister's Lancaster House seminar and that the occasion is worthy of Ministerial support. The BAAS had also been in touch with DTI on this and related issues through Barry Copestake, and although I think it would be fair to say that both of us had some initial doubts about the project, I am now much happier, having had an opportunity to discuss it in detail with Mr Dyer of the BAAS. Incidentally Mr Dyer is a past ICI senior executive.

Before returning to the BAAS with the suggestion that they might invite Mr Baker, I would be grateful if you could let me know whether Mr Baker would be likely to accept such an invitation.

I am copying this minute and the attachments to Oscar Roith and  
→ Barry Copestake.

RBN