

PRIME MINISTER

cc Manpower
Special Employment
Measures

Meeting with Sir Keith Joseph

Sir Keith wants to talk about two subjects:

(i) Economic awareness. At the Seminar in September it was argued that the level of awareness of the economic facts of life in schools - both pupils and teachers - was lamentably low. Sir Keith Joseph undertook to discuss with Lord Cockfield and Sir Christopher Lawson how this might be rectified. Sir Keith will report on the outcome of those discussions.

(ii) Science budget. When, during the course of the bilaterals, Sir Keith was bidding unsuccessfully for additional resources for the science budget, he suggested that he might write to the Chancellor proposing that some of the big spending programmes (he mentioned agriculture in this context) should be reviewed to see if any savings could be made which could be devoted to the science budget. He felt that small savings on the larger programmes could make a significant impact on the science budget. You agreed that he could write to the Chancellor along those lines. I understand that he will be doing this shortly. I expect he will want to talk to you, away from the pressures of the Public Expenditure Survey, on the case for increasing the science vote. He might suggest that you hold an informal meeting with Dr. Nicholson, Sir David Phillips and Professor Kingman to establish whether it really is the case that good research projects are being turned down for want of resources.

You are aware of Sir Keith's proposal to establish a review of high energy particle physics. I have minuted out indicating your agreement to this. Since then, the Foreign Secretary has

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minuted expressing his concerns. Since these were fully documented in the papers Sir Keith sent you I see no reason to change your view that a review of CERN would be beneficial.

AS

13 March 1984