

PRIME MINISTER

Meeting on Scientific Research

I have investigated further your idea of a meeting or teach-in on developments in science. The attached letter from DES puts forward suggestions on how such a meeting might be structured. One possibility would be to hold it on a Sunday evening at Chequers, which might be quite attractive to those invited to take part and which might allow rather more than two hours to be set aside. The meeting could, for example, start around 5.00 and conclude with supper.

The diary for June is extremely full but a possibility is Sunday 8 July - if it were later there will be an increased risk that the scientists will be dispersed on holiday or lecturing abroad.

Do you wish to pursue the idea?
Are you content with the suggested format?
Are you content with the suggested date?

} Yes me

AT

12 April 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 April, 1984

Dear David,

Science Budget: Proposed July Meeting on Recent
Developments in Scientific Research

Thank you for your letter of 10 April. I have put your proposals to the Prime Minister who would like very much to hold a seminar along the lines you suggest. We have identified the evening of Sunday, 8 July at Chequers as a suitable date and place. We envisage starting at around 5 p.m. which might allow around two and a half hours for presentations and discussion. The Prime Minister would be pleased to offer supper afterwards to the visitors.

I agree with your suggestion that the emphasis of the meeting should be on the nature of scientific opportunities rather than on the resources available to pursue them. The latter issue is, as you know, the subject of a separate meeting.

BF | I would be grateful if you could identify possible subjects and presenters. When you have drawn up a short list, perhaps we could get together with Robin Nicholson to decide on who should be invited.

I am copying this letter to Elizabeth Hodkinson (Sir Keith Joseph's Office), Mr. Glickman (Mr. Brooke's Office, Department of Education and Science), Mr. Hancock (Department of Education and Science), Dr. Nicholson (Cabinet Office) and Sir David Phillips.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Turnbull

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10 April 1984

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
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Dear Turnbull,

**SCIENCE BUDGET: PROPOSED JULY MEETING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

You invited me to send you a draft prospectus for the second of the briefing meetings to which the Prime Minister has agreed, which you thought might take place during July.

Our understanding is that the purpose of this meeting is to give the Prime Minister an opportunity to hear from researchers themselves an account of the new scientific opportunities open to UK researchers in a range of natural science disciplines. We would seek to assemble say 8 young but distinguished researchers (in standing, on the brink of becoming Fellows of the Royal Society or recently admitted), chosen in pairs whose fields were contiguous or related. The seminar, which might last two hours if the Prime Minister is willing and can afford the time, might be divided into four presentations of 10-15 minutes each given by one of each of the four pairs, on the state of science in their field. Each presentation might be followed by 10-15 minutes discussion during which the second of the pair could as occasion offered expand on the state of science in his area, if that is the way discussion led. In each discussion the starting point, and the main theme, would be the science involved although one would expect talk to develop quite naturally into wider questions such as the implications of the work, economic and social as well as scientific. What we would hope would be conveyed would be the character, scale and variety of scientific opportunities as currently perceived, in some of the currently most exciting areas. Thus the seminar would emphatically be about science, not about money. That is not to say, of course, that discussion of resource aspects would be absolutely ruled out; rather that the occasion is not intended to be a debate about the level of public expenditure on science.

I would seek, from the natural science Research Councils and (perhaps indirectly) from the Royal Society, the names of 12-16 people, spanning a range of disciplines, from whom the 8 participants might be drawn; with Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Brooke, Mr Hancock, Sir David Phillips and Dr Nicholson we would have, with the Prime Minister, 14 people. I would need, in seeking names and preparing a short list, to give what guidance I could on the likely timing and venue of the seminar.

I will take no further action until you let me know the Prime Minister's wishes; I am copying this letter to Dr Nicholson, our Private Offices and Sir David Phillips.

Yours sincerely

David Tanner

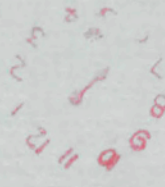
D W TANNER

Science + Tech

Sept 83

Science Budget

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A circular red stamp is located in the center of the page. It features a central figure that appears to be a stylized 'S' or a similar symbol. Surrounding this central figure are the numbers 1 through 12, arranged in a circle. The stamp is oriented upside down relative to the date stamp below it.