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JU275  
PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

1 October 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

Andrew Turnbull Esq  
No 10  
Downing Street SW1

AT (O/V)

Dear Andrew

BT FLOTATION: CELEBRATORY DINNER

Andrew Lansley here had a word with you last week about the proposal from BT that they should organise a celebratory dinner, in the event that the flotation goes ahead successfully. Sir George Jefferson would very much like to invite the Prime Minister as the Guest of Honour at such a dinner, which should ideally be held soon after the BT flotation, so that it had topicality. Sir George also has it in mind to invite the Ministers in this Department who have played the greatest part in preparing for the flotation, and to invite successive Secretaries of State from Sir Keith Joseph's time; and Ministers of State starting with Mr Adam Butler.

2 Sir George would not issue the invitation until after the success of the flotation has become clear. If there is to be any chance of arranging such a dinner before Christmas, which would be ideal, it will be necessary to reserve a date now which is suitable both to the Prime Minister and to my Secretary of State. I should be grateful if you could discover whether the Prime Minister would, in principle, be willing to attend such a dinner; and if the appropriate diary side of No 10 could investigate possible dates.

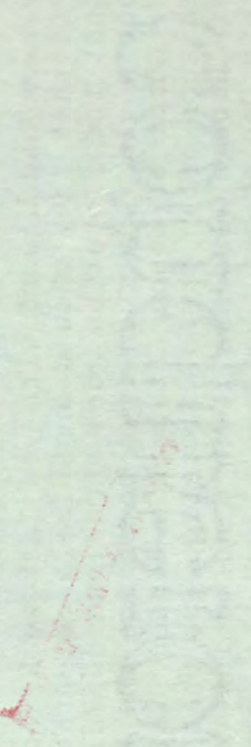
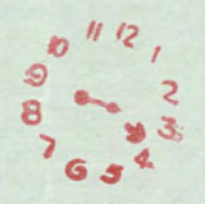
3 The dinner would be held at what I anachronistically still call the Post Office Tower, but which I believe is now more properly known as Telecom Tower, the restaurant of which has just been re-opened for this sort of occasion. This physically puts a limit on the numbers, of an obvious sort. I should add that my Secretary of State believes that this would be a most appropriate occasion for the Prime Minister to attend as Guest of Honour, since it would mark the culmination of the Government's largest privatisation measure. He therefore strongly recommends it to the Prime Minister.

Yours ever

Colman

M C McCARTHY  
Private Secretary

- 2 OCT 1984



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PRIME MINISTER

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BT FLOTATION: CELEBRATORY DINNER

There is only one possible date when this would be convenient between now and Christmas, and that is Monday, 17 December. The dinner would take place at the Post Office Tower but it is the same evening as the Central Office Christmas Party.

Content to attend the Dinner after your visit to Central Office?

*ep.* Yes - provided  
all goes well

5 October 1984

AT  
I rang Andrew  
Lindsay &  
confirmed.  
Test before  
8.00 p.m.  
please.  
Ch.  
8/10.

MR. TURNBULL

BT FLOTATION DINNER:  
MONDAY 17 DECEMBER

I spoke to Callum McCarthy. I explained the difficulty. I mentioned that we would be in touch in a week or two with the hope that the Prime Minister would be able to look in at some point during the evening.



Caroline Ryder

13 November 1984