



PRIME MINISTER

AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

I have seen a copy of Peter Rees' minute to you of 21 December about the report on Agriculture and Conservation which we are to discuss on 23 January.

It would be wrong, I think, to comment in any detail on his points in advance of that meeting. Nevertheless, as silence might be construed as tacit agreement, I must put three of my reservations on record.

First I have strong objections to the full use of conventional planning powers to control agricultural operations. It would represent a new and intrusive load on local authorities, and an attempt to deny compensation would prove extraordinarily contentious. I think our aims would be much better served by the sort of balanced and selective extension of powers, eg over a Landscape Areas Special Development Order and positive Landscape Conservation orders to which my note of 30 November referred.

Secondly, I have reservations about 90% grant-aid to the Broads Authority. It would be more repercussive (on National Parks) than embarking on a special experiment, and the experiment offers a new and potentially effective way of going for positive conservation grant as well as being cheaper in the long run.

Lastly, Peter Rees' assumption about my capacity to contain the public expenditure consequences of my proposals is incorrect. Annex B of the paper by officials sets out the Agencies' estimates of the future costs of site safeguard. Although highly speculative for later years, the rising profile of

BIT for meeting pm,

ans  
14/1

CNYO



CONFIDENTIAL



NCC expenditure is clearly indicated and this cannot be contained within my present forward PES lines, which were cut back severely in last year's Survey.

Copies go to Members of H, Geoffrey Howe, Michael Jopling and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PJ

P J

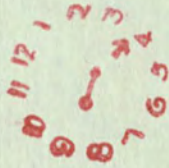
\\ January 1985



ENU ATTACKS

Acid Rain Pt 3

LIBRARY



Copyrighted