

PRIME MINISTERDRAFT EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENT

As you will see from Tom King's covering minute, there is a considerable amount of meat in this document, which will need to be discussed by the relevant ministers. There is also a large amount of useful background material that will help to sustain the Government's case.

An employment White Paper will be an invaluable component of a coordinated sequence of releases in March, including the Budget, the Report of the Social Security Reviews, and David Young's proposals for 16-18 year olds. Such a sequence will show that the Government has a programme for tackling unemployment that is both internally coherent and consistent with its general economic strategy.

By the standards of recent White Papers, the document is not too badly written. But the prose will need to be made considerably more energetic and persuasive if it is to do the trick. And there should be a shortened version available for wide circulation, in simple, colloquial English. We doubt whether either of these tasks can be done within the Department of Employment: you might ask Tom King to seek help from Ferdy Mount or some other first-rate stylist.

With such stylistic help, there is enough here to produce a document of real importance. We suggest that you give it a fair wind so that it can form part of the agenda for the meeting on 14 January. *David*

J. [unclear]

*It is badly
written - no punch
no style - very discursive
and no clear message.
not*

pp. Oliver Letwin

28 December 1984