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E(A) folder

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PRIME MINISTER

TEACHERS: IN-SERVICE TRAINING

I am writing in advance of the E(A) meeting fixed for 25 February, to call attention to the connections between the report of Lord Young's group, E(A)(85)9, to be considered then, and an important section of the draft White Paper on Schools to be considered by H Committee on 6 March. If both matters go ahead broadly as proposed and our conclusions on the first are announced quite quickly, then it will be important for me to bring out at that stage the relationship between the MISC 107 proposed training scheme for propagating among teachers the lessons and principles of TVEI and my plans for a reformed in-service training regime for school teachers, financed by specific grant and subject to much closer central direction. My scheme cannot be introduced until April 1987, because legislation is needed. To prevent fears amongst local education authorities that our response to recent consultations on in-service training is no more than a short term and limited scheme administered by the MSC, it will be necessary to present this TVEI-related training as the first stage of the implementation of a new policy for improved in-service teacher training generally, with the emphasis on improved value for money from in-service training.

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I would propose therefore, subject to consideration of these matters by E(A) and H respectively, to make a statement in broad terms declaring our intention to legislate to introduce a specific grant regime for in-service training for teachers, setting the 1985/86 and 1986/87 bridging arrangements for TVEI-related training in that wider context, at the same time as our announcement on Lord Young's proposals. It would not anticipate the White Paper on Schools in other respects, and would of course be discussed in draft with officials of Lord Young's Enterprise Unit and the MSC.

Copies of this letter go to members of E(A) and H Committee.

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21 February 1985