

PRIME MINISTER

Women into Science and Engineering

In the attached note Dr. Nicholson recommends you to accept two invitations connected with "Women into Science and Engineering Year". The first is the invitation from the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University to deliver the Leggett Lecture in May/June. The second is an invitation which we can expect shortly from Lady Platt for you to launch "an engineering bus" which will contain a travelling exhibition.

Before we received Dr. Nicholson's minute, you had in fact signed a letter to the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey declining the invitation to deliver the lecture. I have held this back.

As you know you already have a very full programme of speaking engagements, and you may feel that - notwithstanding Dr. Nicholson's advice - it would be wiser to decline the lecture. If so, we could simply send off the letter you have already signed. You will wish to consider Lady Platt's invitation when we receive it, but at first sight this does sound a possible way in which you could lend your support to the Wise Year without committing too much time.

Agree we decline the lecture, and consider Lady Platt's invitation sympathetically when it arrives?

DMB

11 January 1984

May 1 June is
a very bad time for us
because of 2 Anniversaries, for
one of which we are hosts
i. Repetition



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON
CABINET OFFICE

26/1 R57
FUE
WOMEN into Science &
Engineering
(Lady PLATT)

David -
Any more on this?

Kay
Not yet.

Kay
27/1

WOMEN INTO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING YEAR

The Prime Minister was most grateful for your minute of 10 January about the invitations from Surrey University and from Lady Platt in connection with WISE 1984.

The Prime Minister has considered very carefully whether she could accept the invitation to deliver the Leggett Lecture in May/June. She has reluctantly concluded however that she cannot - this is always a very busy time of year, and this year there are two Summits to add to the other pressures on her programme. The Prime Minister has written accordingly to the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University.

We have not yet heard from Lady Platt about the "engineering bus". But your advice will be most helpful when it arrives.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Richard Hatfield.

(David Barclay)

12 January, 1984

VC

10 January 1984

PRIME MINISTER

WOMEN INTO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING YEAR - WISE 1984

My minute dated 12 December 1983 indicated why I believe that WISE '84 is a worthwhile initiative deserving your encouragement. Its objectives are supportive of the Government's overall strategy.

2. In considering the invitation from the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University for you to deliver the Leggett Lecture, you should know that a letter is on its way from Baroness Platt, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission (a co-sponsor of WISE '84), asking whether you might consider giving both the lecture and being involved in the launch of an 'engineering bus' (to which the Department of Trade and Industry have contributed funds). The 'bus' will contain an exhibition giving advice to girls on engineering and will visit schools in all local education authority areas. Baroness Platt's letter will elaborate on this venture.

3. The 'bus' idea seems an imaginative one and I understand that the suggestion will be to launch it from the House of Commons forecourt or Downing Street. I recommend that you accept this invitation.

4. The lecture would, of course, make much more significant demands on your time but it would, however, provide an opportunity for you to pick up some of the themes of your Lancaster House Seminar on Science, Technology and Industry. I have in mind themes such as the need for all children (both boys and girls) to have a basic familiarity with science and engineering so that we become a more technologically

aware society; the need for better university/industry links and for better partnerships between university scientists and business entrepreneurs to create new industries; the value and protection of intellectual property rights; and the importance of applying the UK's science and technology skills to make our industry competitive in world markets. As the lecture is due to take place roughly a year after the Seminar and the location is an important technological University which recently won the competition for the Racal Chair in Information Technology, it would be a useful time and place to reinforce these messages of the Seminar. I hope you will feel able to accept this invitation, and I would of course be pleased to be involved in the lecture's preparation.

5. I am copying this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

- 2 -

10 January 1984

SCIENCE + TECH: Women into Science

Sec 83

10/11 JAN 1984





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 5 January.

I am most grateful to you, on behalf of the University of Surrey, for inviting me to give the Leggett Lecture. I very much regret that I am not going to be able to accept. My speaking programme, already overcrowded for this year, has now been finalised and I feel unable to put anything more into my diary.

With best wishes and could you kindly pass on this reluctant refusal to all concerned.

Dr. A. Kelly,
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey

W.016

6 January 1984

TO: MR TURNBULL, No 10

cc: Dr Harrison

FROM: DR NICHOLSON

WOMEN INTO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING YEAR - WISE 84

Further to my minute to you of 12 December, the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University has sent me a personal copy of his letter to the Prime Minister of 5 January inviting her to deliver the Leggett Lecture.

My advice to the Prime Minister on this invitation will depend on the importance which the Equal Opportunities Commission place on this particular event in the context of WISE 84 as a whole. I expect to get some views from the EOC on this on Monday and you may wish to delay putting Dr Kelly's letter in front of the Prime Minister until then.

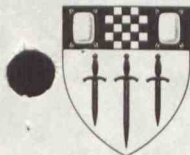
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Sci + Technology
Wander into Science
Dec. 83

16 JAN 1984



COMPTON



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*From the Vice-Chancellor
A. Kelly, FEng, FRS*

5 January 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

(6/1)

The University of Surrey has each year an important public lecture in which the lecturer gives his or her views on Man's attitude to modern technology within the ethos of a technological university, and hence comments on technological education for the modern world. Among previous speakers have been the President of the Royal Society; Sir Peter Medawar; Lord Dacre of Glanton.

This lecture is named after the first Vice-Chancellor (Dr Leggett) and has traditionally taken place during the period May-June. The most convenient time is usually 5.30 pm on a Wednesday.

This year is the year of Women into Science and Engineering which, as you know, is sponsored by the Engineering Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

In conjunction with the leadership of WISE, notably Baroness Platt, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission and Sir Kenneth Corfield, Chairman of the Engineering Council, together with Professor Daphne Jackson, President of the Women's Engineering Society and Dean of the Faculty of Science at Surrey, I would like to invite you to give this year's Leggett Lecture at the University of Surrey. If you agree, we would like to make it the main event of the year sponsored by Women into Science and Engineering.

It may perhaps be of interest to you to have a forum in which you wish to explain your own philosophy in a non-political context indicating your view of the work ethic and Man's and Woman's relationship to the technology by which we all live. We would all be most honoured if you would consent to do so.

Dr Robin Nicholson is familiar with the background to this request.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

5 January 1984

The date can be fixed to suit you and although a Wednesday is the preferred day of the week, we can of course arrange a date at your convenience. If, for instance, a date shortly before Parliament reassembles in October would be more convenient, this would I am sure be possible for us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A. Kelly