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Is this
'Switch' for your
to?



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 June 1985

Dear Mr. Swinstead,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May. I am pleased that you were encouraged by our meeting. I have noted carefully what your Company is already doing to assist higher education in aspects of engineering and technology and am glad that you will now be providing increased assistance.

You mention the need for "modification of both school and university curricula". As I said at the meeting, the Government is acting on a number of fronts. In the schools, our policies are designed to create a stronger emphasis on mathematics and science. In higher education, the Engineering and Technology programme is the latest in a series of initiatives to increase the output of graduates in these subjects.

I certainly agree with you about the need for more graduates in software engineering and design, and we shall be ensuring that a balance is struck in the Engineering and Technology programme between this and the other important areas within its scope.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Philip Swinstead, Esq.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Handwritten signature

// June 1985

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 28 May enclosing this letter to the Prime Minister from the Chairman of Systems Designers International.

I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature.

Yours ever
I M Hughes

I M HUGHES
Private Secretary

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DRAFT REPLY TO MR P SWINSTEAD

Thank you for your letter of May 22. I am pleased that you were encouraged by the meeting on May 21 - ^{or} as indeed we were. ^{have noted carefully} I ^{note} what your Company is already doing to assist higher education in aspects of engineering and technology and am glad that you will now be providing increased assistance.

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^{certainly} I agree with you about the need for more graduates in software engineering and design, and we shall be ensuring that a ~~due~~ balance is struck in the Engineering and Technology programme ^{the} between this and other important areas within its scope.

P. SWINSTEAD



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Ack'd 28 May 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Chairman of Systems Designers International plc.

I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply to Mr. Swinstead, for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Tuesday 11 June.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Andrew Lansley (Department of Trade and Industry), Chris Snell (Department of Employment), Leigh Lewis (Minister without Portfolio's Office) and to Sir Robin Nicholson (Cabinet Office).

Mark Addison

Miss Elizabeth Hodkinson,
Department of Education and Science.

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Prime Minister

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SYSTEMS DESIGNERS INTERNATIONAL PLC

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Telephone Camberley 686200. Telex 858280, Telecopier Camberley 683511

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

mt.

22nd May 1985.

Dear Prime Minister,

I was most encouraged by yesterday's meeting, and assure you of my company's continued support for the reform of our educational system with industry participation. We have increased our level of graduate intake every year as we have expanded, and have a significant external sponsorship budget spent with universities and local schools. The need for modification of both school and university curricula and the required change of emphasis towards the sciences was clearly expressed at the meeting.

This country is a world leader in the software field, and I believe that it is in this area that more graduates are required if we are to maintain our lead. The Alvey project is vital to this cause and this initiative must be continued and extended into the future.

My company is becoming an important international player in this field, and as we expand further we shall be both supporting your policy for industrial involvement in IT education and creating increasing numbers of jobs for IT graduates.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Swinstead,
Chairman.

Switzer

