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S. J. V.

Ref. A08737

MR. WHITMORE

Prime Minister.Continue for the attached note  
to go to Cabinet?

Yes Mr

RLL  
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Mr Scholar's letter of 16 June records the outcome of the Prime Minister's meeting on this subject on 16 June. That letter was copied to the Private Secretaries to Ministers present at the meeting.

2. The subject was discussed by the Cabinet on 3 June, inconclusively. The minutes of that discussion (CC(82) 31st Conclusions, Minute 4) did not commit the Prime Minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer to report back; they said that the Prime Minister would discuss the issues further with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and certain other Ministers and would then consider how best to proceed.

3. This leaves us with the question whether the conclusions reached at yesterday's meeting should be conveyed to the rest of the Cabinet, and if so, how. I think that they probably ought to be conveyed. It is not just a matter of good order and tidiness; other members of the Cabinet ought to know the tactics that it has been decided to pursue.

4. This could be done by copying Mr Scholar's letter of 16 June to the Private Secretaries of Cabinet Ministers not present at yesterday's meeting. But I think that it may not be desirable to give so wide a circulation to that letter and I am therefore inclined to suggest that we deal with this by circulating to the Cabinet for information a note by the Secretary of the Cabinet briefly recording the decision. This note would be circulated for information; there would be no suggestion that the matter should be discussed further by the Cabinet. I attach a draft note accordingly.

R.A.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

17 June 1982