

PRIME MINISTER

GREEN PAPER ON PERSONAL TAXATION

N.C.W.

14.2

The Chancellor may want to delay the Cabinet discussions on the Green Paper from 20 February to 27 February because:

- (i) the Foreign Secretary will be with The Queen in Nepal on 20 February. The Chancellor believes his support will help the Cabinet discussions;
- (ii) Mr. Fowler may circulate his own paper. The extra week might enable the Treasury to accommodate his views into their draft and avoid the need for his paper;
- (iii) the Cabinet on 27 February is likely to take the legislative programmes for 1986/87 and 1987/88. This will help fill the Agenda and avoid too much discussion of the Green Paper. (It will not be easy to find extra items for the 20 February Cabinet without making it appear that the Agenda is being deliberately packed.)

Do you agree that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have the discretion, if he so chooses tomorrow, to delay the circulation of his draft Green Paper until the following weekend with a view to Cabinet discussion on 27 February?

*Yes*

N.C.W.

NIGEL WICKS

13 February 1986

cc: Mr. Stark, Cabinet Office.