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10 DOWNING STREET
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21 July 1987

From the Private Secretary

Dear Peter,

SPACE AND IT92

The Prime Minister has seen the Chancellor of the Duchy's minute of 20 July, with the proposed statement announcing decisions on Space and Information Technology.

The Prime Minister is content with what is proposed on Space, subject to the views of colleagues. However she is not convinced that the Government is yet in a position to announce firm decisions on spending on Information Technology. She would prefer the statement to be postponed until tomorrow, Wednesday, and in the meantime she has asked that the Chancellor of the Duchy should circulate a further note with more information about the proposed spending on Information Technology, including the pattern of spending year by year and the proportion to be found by private industry, compared to the amount which was found by private industry for Alvey I. She has not ruled out an announcement on IT alongside Space tomorrow, but in view of the significance of the proposals, it may be necessary to be less forthcoming than in the draft, and to postpone a firm announcement until Parliament returns in November.

I am copying this letter to Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), E(ST) and to Trevor Woolley and John Fairclough (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
David*

(DAVID NORGROVE)

Peter Smith, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

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