

PRIME MINISTER

SPACE

Kenneth Clarke has sent in two papers seeking comments by Monday:

(1) a draft Government response to the House of Lords Select Committee

(2) a separate minute detailing his proposals for the future role of the British National Space Centre (BNSC). This approach is summarised in paragraph 12 of the response to the House of Lords.

George Guise's separate minute strongly criticises the proposed approach on the BNSC. Mr. Clarke's recommendation is to retain its present structure. George argues that the BNSC should now be absorbed within the DTI and not continue as a "pseudo-independent quango". If George's alternative approach was adopted, paragraph 12 of the response to the House of Lords would need to be changed.

Content to accept Kenneth Clarke's proposed retention of the status quo for BNSC?

Or

Propose that BNSC should be subsumed within DTI as advocated by George Guise?

*I agree with George - The BNSC
seems to me an expensive and duplicitous piece of*

PRC6, bureaucracy

(PAUL GRAY)

22 July 1988

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