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file - DS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1988

DATE OF THE 1989 BUDGET

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me dated 17 October, and is content for the Chancellor to plan on the basis of the 1989 Budget being on 14 March.

PAUL GRAY

Alex Allan, Esq.
H.M. Treasury

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[Handwritten signature]



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

17 October 1988

P R C Gray Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear Paul,

Yes not

Prime Minister
You pressed the Chancellor
on the possibility of a 7 March
Budget. Content now to
accept 14 March?

PRC6
18/10

DATE OF THE 1989 BUDGET

The Chancellor and Prime Minister discussed the date of the 1989 Budget at a bilateral a few weeks ago. The Chancellor has now considered the various possible dates and has concluded that 14 March is the date he should aim for. A later date would run into problems with Easter and an earlier date would mean that important economic data (such as the CSO's estimates of 1988 GDP and current account) would not be available in time to be taken account of in finalising the FSB forecast. As you know, we normally announce the date in a suitable Parliamentary occasion soon after the House resumes after the Christmas Recess.

Yours
Alan

A C S ALLAN