

PRIME MINISTER

BRITISH ASTRONAUT

Geoffrey Pattie has been in touch about the project sponsored by the Moscow Narodny Bank to select and train a British astronaut. He wonders whether you would record a short piece for a promotional film for the project, preferably this week.

I have consulted the Department of Trade and Industry who think it would be a mistake for the Government to get too close to the project. The whole point is that it should be non-Governmental. David Young attended the Press launch, and this got it off to a good start. They do not think it would be right for you to be more closely associated with it at this stage. Anyway, this week is exceptionally busy for you.

Agree to accept DTI advice and not take part in the film?
If so, I will explain to Geoffrey Pattie.

CDP

11 September, 1989.

JD66