

~~CNO~~

SECRET



Prime Minister (2)

25

To note and endorse?

Yes ms AT 21/3

PRIME MINISTER

SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY REVIEWS

Work on the three reviews of social security policies, about which I sent you a minute on 16 February, has now been carried forward to the point where I expect to be able to make an announcement soon. I intend to present them, in conjunction with my inquiry into pensions, as amounting to the largest comprehensive review of social security programmes since Beveridge. The four reviews together will be a major undertaking and it will be very important to make sure that they are properly coordinated. I am therefore establishing a central unit in my Department to service the reviews and my Second Permanent Secretary will convene a coordinating committee covering all the departments concerned, including a representative of your Policy Unit.

One outstanding point is the chairmanship of the Housing Benefit Review. Your agreement was conveyed, through Sir Robert Armstrong's office, to our approaching Mr Jeremy Rowe, Deputy Chairman of Abbey National and Chairman of Peterborough Development Corporation. He has thought it over very carefully and, I am glad to say, agreed to take the job on. He strikes us as having the right personal qualities and a helpful background of experience in both business and the public sector. I also intend, on Patrick Jenkin's advice, to ask Mr Harry Simpson, an ex-local authority housing director, and a member of the Social Security Advisory Committee to be one of the other two members of the Review team.

I would propose to announce the appointments as part of my general announcement of three reviews in the week of 2 April. Mr Rowe has asked that the matter should remain confidential until then.

I am copying this to the Lord President, the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Education and Employment, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

20 March 1984

SECRET

Nat Health: Seminar Aug 83

- copied to Housing

Return of Housing Benefit
6/80

1983
1982

1983
1982

CONTROL

