



PRIME MINISTER

DEREGULATION, CITY ACTION TEAMS, AND TOURISM

1. We are meeting on 7 November to discuss our strategy on enterprise and employment. I shall let you have a note in advance as your Private Secretary requested.
2. Before then, however, I would hope - with your agreement - that we might be able to set in hand new central arrangements in respect of deregulation, city action teams and tourism to ensure that there is no break in our efforts on any of these fronts.

Deregulation

3. I see the recent White Paper as a beginning rather than an end to our efforts. There is a long way still to go domestically. In addition, a major commitment will be required from all Departments if we are to ensure that the initiative on deregulation in the European Communities which you introduced at the March Council in Brussels produces results. I have already said publicly that I envisage a second White Paper on deregulation by April of next year; this will be a major task, but in my view it is crucial.
4. I think this work could progress most effectively if we continue to use the device of a committee of Ministers and officials on deregulation along the lines of MISC 114. That Committee was very successful in focusing attention on deregulation and keeping Departments up to an ambitious



timetable which in the event we met with the publication of "Lifting the Burden" before last Summer's recess. The timetable I have proposed for the second White Paper, while slightly longer, is no less ambitious.

5. I would suggest a committee with similar membership and terms of reference to MISC 114 with the addition of the Paymaster General, and of representatives of MAFF and the Department of Transport as there are a number of issues in their fields which are of interest in terms of both domestic and European deregulation. As before I would see the committee being supplemented by a series of bilateral discussions on deregulation with each Department, being taken by either Kenneth Clarke or myself.

6. If you agree to the establishment of such a Committee, I would suggest terms of reference as follows:-

"To coordinate action to implement the proposals contained in "Lifting the Burden" (Cmnd 9571); to consider what further steps should be taken on deregulation; to prepare a timetable for action, to accelerate and monitor progress thereafter; to oversee the arrangements for assessing the compliance cost of all new regulations; to review systematically existing regulations and more generally to consider how the burden of regulation can be kept to a minimum; and to make recommendations to the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs (E(A))."

I would envisage a report to E(A) in February, with a view to publication of a White Paper before the Easter recess. As I mentioned to you, I would find it invaluable if you could find the time to continue to take a close interest in this work, possibly by offering to chair a further meeting in, say, January and by indicating to colleagues that in addition you would want to hold one or two bilaterals to deal with the burden of regulations being imposed by certain Departments.



City Action Teams (CATS)

7. On the CATS, MISC 116 provides a continuing vehicle for monitoring the effectiveness of the teams against the targets we have set them. I understand that the Cabinet secretariat intend putting forward to me as Chairman suggestions for revised membership of the Committee which will reflect recent ministerial changes. Apart from these, however, and the addition of the Paymaster General to the Committee, no further changes in MISC 116's scope or terms of reference seem called for. It next meets on 31 October.

Tourism

8. On tourism, 'Pleasure, Leisure and Jobs' announced our intention of arranging for the Departments concerned with tourism and tourism related responsibilities to keep under coordinated and regular review the range of Government policies which impinge on tourism and leisure. Before the report was issued I discussed with the Secretary to the Cabinet the form which such coordination might take. One option is clearly a MISC Committee but that carries the disadvantage that, for reasons which I accept, we could not refer publicly to its existence, still less to its membership. This leads me to the view - which I believe the Cabinet Secretariat also favour - that I might convene periodic meetings of colleagues and officials from the other Departments concerned to ensure that the necessary coordination is happening. Any issues which could not be resolved in such a forum could, of course, come to the appropriate Cabinet committee for decision.

9. If you were to agree to such an approach, I would foresee the need for no more than an invitation to me from you to ensure that the tourism policies of other Departments were reviewed regularly and to report any issues needing more formal collective consideration to the appropriate Committee.

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10. If you were to agree with the proposals in this minute then it would be particularly helpful if you were able to instruct me accordingly with copies to colleagues concerned. This will be sufficient to ensure that work goes ahead without delay.

11. I should, of course, be happy to discuss.

12. I am copying at this stage only to Kenneth Clarke here.

Ref

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3 October 1985

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