



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 October 1985

Dear Sir Henry,

Thank you for your letter of 9 September and the report of the Council on "Exploitable Areas of Science".

I strongly support the main thrust of the report that United Kingdom R&D must be more exploitable and that we ourselves must exploit it better. As the report points out some other countries do seem able to identify the promising new areas with industrial potential sooner than we do and act on them more quickly. I therefore welcome the proposal in the report for improving the UK performance. I agree that the arrangements should be separate from and funded independently of Government but should, nevertheless, have a major influence on R&D supported by Government. Involvement of both the industrial and scientific communities will be vital if the private and public sectors are both to contribute towards increasing the exploitation of our national effort in science and technology.

I agree to Part I of the report being given wider dissemination through publication and that it should be vigorously followed up along the lines which you have discussed with Sir Robin Nicholson.

Yours sincerely

Roger Dainton

Sir Henry Chilver.