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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1985 X

VALUE FOR MONEY IN GOVERNMENT

I expect that Mr. Baker knows that since July 1984 the Prime Minister has been holding a series of small "Value for Money" seminars with individual Secretaries of State. The intention is that the Minister and his Permanent Secretary describe examples of the most important improvements in value for money in operations or programmes in the past year and look forward to planned improvements in the future.

Sessions have so far been held involving the Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office, and the Department of Employment. The Prime Minister would now be grateful if your Secretary of State could attend a further session to describe his recent improvements in value for money and his targets for future improvements. I will shortly be getting in touch with you to arrange the meeting.

The Prime Minister is keen to keep the session small, but your Secretary of State might want to be accompanied by his First Permanent Secretary. The discussions are not to be seen as part of the public expenditure negotiations and, apart from the Prime Minister, the only others present will be Sir Robin Ibbs, Sir Robert Armstrong and Nigel Wicks.

The Prime Minister hopes that your Secretary of State will speak for up to 20 minutes, roughly half to display the main improvements actually achieved in the past year and roughly half to explain what is going to be achieved. This would be followed by a further 40 minutes of discussion.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robin Ibbs and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

MARK ADDISON

Robin Young, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.