

E. R.

①

PRIME MINISTER

CHAIRING A MEETING OF NEDC

You last chaired NEDC in February, and we wonder when you would think it right next to chair such a meeting.

There is a case for not allowing more than a year or so to elapse between these two occasions. There is an argument for avoiding a date too near that of the Budget. This points perhaps to your choosing the a February date.

If you are in principle willing to contemplate this timing, I will let you have the options as to what might be included on the agenda.

Should we start planning for a February meeting?

MUS

Yes mb

20 November 1981

Tim Ak
St. Gregory

181

CONFIDENTIAL



MR. VELLESLER
Evan Rd

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 November 1981

NEDC

We had a word about a possible date for the Prime Minister to chair a meeting of NEDC.

I have now had an opportunity to consult the Prime Minister. She would like to plan on chairing the meeting on 3 February. I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible what the options are as to what might be included on the agenda for that meeting.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Colman (Sir Douglas Wass's Office).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Peter Jenkins, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

1. ~~Mr. Hingham.~~

cc. Mr. Hingham.

You should be aware. The PM at NEDC in early February could be quite an explosive mixture.

2. ~~Mr. Scholar~~

I should be very grateful if you could keep me au fait with the agenda. It is likely to have to feature, & will need very careful treatment; & the presentation of the whole event will be tricky.

J.V. 24/11

C10

1) MCS
2) CS



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000

18 November 1981

Michael Scholar Esq
Private Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
No.10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Caroline

Could we do the 3rd Feb?
Yes. Have
entered in diary
M.
Will it require a
lot of preparation?
cf.

Dear Michael

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE NEDC

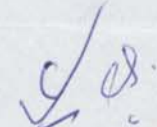
You mentioned last week that the Prime Minister might like to visit the NEDC again early in the New Year, and you wondered when would be the most suitable time.

Our feeling is that the best time for her to come would be February (the Council meeting will be at 10 am on the 3rd of the month). The January meeting probably has to be ruled out, partly because a visit by the Prime Minister requires some careful arranging, and there may not be enough time to do this properly by the beginning of January, and partly because, with a meeting so soon after Christmas, there could be difficulties in getting a full turn-out of Council members. A visit in March is a possibility, but would be likely to be close to the Budget.

The agenda for the February meeting has not yet been finalised. If the Prime Minister did want to attend the February Council, we would endeavour to put together an agenda which she would find interesting and attractive.

Yours ever
Peter

P S JENKINS
Private Secretary


I must have thought
more than the avg
E mty.
M