

**CONFIDENTIAL**

cc Master Set

Polimer

-H/c Proadun. A 2

NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND  
MR. EDWARD DU CANN AT 1445 ON MONDAY, 24 MARCH 1980

Mr. du Cann said that he had sent the Prime Minister his letter of 14 March 1980 about the future of the Civil Service Department because he thought it important that he should have guidance from her on the direction in which he should take his Select Committee.

The Prime Minister said that she was very glad that the Select Committee was turning its attention to the CSD. When she had visited the Department recently she had found that although many of its staff were of high quality, a lot of them seemed to spend much of their time simply shadowing other departments. She was now of the view that it would make sense to put the Pay and Manpower divisions of the CSD into the Treasury. She thought that it would be helpful to have the Select Committee's views on this issue. She would also like to encourage them to look at the possibility of personal rates of pay for the most senior officials and at the proposal that there should be much more grade skipping at higher levels in the Civil Service. Finally, she hoped that the Select Committee would continue to pay close attention to the size of the Civil Service: she felt that far too many civil servants were employed on monitoring the work of other departments and on unnecessary coordination.

Mr. du Cann said that the Prime Minister's steer had been very helpful. There were a number of members of his Committee who would like to ask the Prime Minister to submit a memorandum on the future of the CSD and even to invite her to give oral evidence. He personally was strongly opposed to this for it would be intolerable to put the Prime Minister in this position. The Prime Minister's response to his request for guidance would enable him to head off those of his colleagues who wished to pursue the idea of having evidence from the Prime Minister. He was seeing his Committee later that day and he would tell them that the Prime Minister was considering the future of the CSD and had said that she would find it valuable to have their views at a fairly early date.

/The Prime Minister

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The Prime Minister confirmed that she did not wish to give either written or oral evidence to the Select Committee and that she was content for Mr. du Cann to proceed as he had proposed.

*AW*

24 March 1980

CONFIDENTIAL