



cc: Chief Secretary
 Minister of State (C)
 Minister of State (L)
 Sir Douglas Wass
 Sir Anthony Rawlinson
 Sir Kenneth Couzens
 Mr. Barratt
 Mr. Byatt
 Mr. Bailey
 Mr. Hancock
 Mr. Littler
 Mr. Middleton
 Mr. Britton
 Mr. Unwin
 Mr. Lavelle
 Mrs. Lomax
 Mr. Neuburger
 Mr. Peretz
 Mr. Norgrove
 Mr. Spencer
 Mr. Ridley
 Mr. Cropper
 Mr. Cardona

FINANCIAL SECRETARY ✓

COMPETITIVENESS AND THE EXCHANGE RATE

The Chancellor was grateful for your submission of 16 February setting out your reservations about the thesis contained in the paper by a Treasury Working Group circulated under cover of Sir Douglas Wass' minute of 1 December.

2. He has commented that your note reinforces the doubts which led him to conclude against any presumption in favour of publication of the original papers, and confirms the view he then expressed that the Working Group's paper looked like a post-mortem on a patient who ought to be dead but isn't!

3. He would like the areas of doubts identified in paragraph 5 of Sir Douglas's minute of 1 December, 1980 to be fundamentally re-assessed in the light of your note.

R.I.T.

(R.I. TOLKIEN)

17 February 1981

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