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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 September 1980

cc T. Vereker

Dear John,

PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

You will have seen that the Paymaster General has written to all his Ministerial colleagues asking them to carry out a sustained campaign with a view to moderating pay claims in the current pay round; and saying that preparation of the material for his new series of speaking notes for Ministers will be coordinated here in No. 10.

The Prime Minister wishes Ministers to explain in their public speeches the realities of pay bargaining in today's circumstances and in particular to bring home the link between unemployment and pay claims not matched by increased productivity. The Paymaster General will issue speaking notes and John Vereker, an Assistant Secretary who has recently joined us here at No. 10, will have responsibility at official level for coordinating the preparation and use of these notes and similar material on the presentation of the Government's economic strategy in future. As part of his work, John Vereker will be in close touch with you to monitor the use of the speaking notes and to see that they are getting the necessary attention from the media. Since we are not equipped to ring round all Ministers' Private Offices each week to establish what is being done, it would be helpful if you and other Private Secretaries would ensure that all prepared texts or press handouts and all media reports of speeches are sent to John Vereker as soon as possible after delivery.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to all other members of the Cabinet, to the Minister of Transport and to the Chief Whip. I should be grateful if you and they would show this letter to the Private Secretaries to Junior Ministers in your Department. I am also sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Alvis Whittam.

J.F. Halliday, Esq.,
Home Office.