



Howe

HL

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September 1982

Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you for your memorandum of 2 September about the policy groups.

I agree with all your points and do not think it is necessary for us to have a word about them.

Lawson
Howe

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C.

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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Prime Minister
Do you wish to see
the Chancellor re
Policy groups? C.
2/9

PRIME MINISTER

No - agreed re.

Since we are both rather busy and out of London much of the time in the immediate future, I thought I would let you have a brief progress report on the policy work front.

2. As we agreed the other day, I have written to Max Beloff and Messrs Higgins, Renton and Wickenden to invite them to be chairmen. They have all accepted subject to survey and contract. I have already talked to Beloff and Renton, and hope to talk to the other two as soon as timetables permit.

3. I have written to the colleagues concerned to underline very clearly the need for regional balance in indentifying possible members and chairmen, and they have already responded with a number of useful suggestions. I know you had some anxiety about the chairmanship of the Family Policy Group. The investigations we've made have shown that we can come up with a well-balanced array of members for it, whether one looks at their professional or regional background. I hope you will feel reassured by this, so that we can go ahead with the group as originally planned. I should personally find it very difficult to do otherwise. We could of course have a word about the issue next week if you wish.

4. All the groups will, of course, be operating within very strict instructions about the need to avoid proposing any net increases in public expenditure.

P.P. (G.H.)

2 September 1982

approved by the Chancellor
and signed in his absence