Ref. A01293

PRIME MINISTER

[I consequent letters are in Folder 3]

Yes m

PRIME MINISTER

You had this one query on Sir Robert's ACARD nominations.

Agree now to go ahead with the package?

MA 31/1

Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development

Mr. Pattison's minute of 28th January invited me to consider whether the list of nominees for ACARD should include someone from the general area of information technology.

2. We considered whether we should specifically aim for a further immediate appointment to the Council from this area, and would, if he had been free, probably have nominated Sir Kenneth Corfield. But, because of pressures on his time, he has recently declined an invitation to join a new ACARD Working Group on Innovation and we therefore did not proceed with his nomination.

3. We already have Sir Robert Clayton, Technical Director of GEC, as a leading member of the Council, and he is about to take the chair of the Working Group which the Council has established on Information Technology. Sir Robert has assembled a strong team for this study. Since this Group will undertake ACARD's main work in the area over the next year, it seems preferable to wait until we have been able to see the contributions made by individual members of the Group and then invite one or two of them to join the Council and lead its subsequent interest in the subject. I therefore envisage bringing forward names from this area at the end of the year when ACARD next needs new members.

4. I have consulted Sir Kenneth Berrill, who agrees with this proposal. If you are content, we shall go ahead with inviting the five new members listed in my minute of 24th January.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

31st January, 1980