

9th Jan
agreed out



Prime Minister

Would you like to take the chair at the 9 January meeting with the items at x and y on the agenda?

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

This agenda should be quite interesting.

24th October 1979 and January

will be more convenient than Feb/March, with Parliament not sitting.

Dear Tim,

NEDC

In my letter of 17 October, I said that I would write to you again about the possibility of the Prime Minister taking the chair at a meeting of NEDC early in 1980.

T
1/11

The Council will be meeting on the afternoon of 9 January and in the morning of 6 February and 5 March. The agendas have not yet been fixed and it should be possible to take account of the Prime Minister's wishes if she decides to attend one of these meetings. The major items in prospect for these meetings are a clutch of related papers by the Departments of Employment and Industry, NEDO and the TUC on technological change, including micro-electronics, industrial adjustment and employment, which could probably be taken in January or February; a paper by the Department of Industry on the Finniston Report on the supply and use of engineers, which should be available for January or February; and a paper on competition policy by the Department of Trade which they hope to have ready for a meeting in February or March. The first item is likely to produce the most substantial discussion in Council and will attract most outside interest. In addition to one of these items, we would expect the meeting to include a report by the Chairman of a Sector Working Party, which is a regular feature of meetings and which we think would be of interest to the Prime Minister, and a third item which would probably cover some more detailed aspect of industrial performance.

x

(has to be available until February)
He would let us have a copy in advance out.

There is, as I have indicated, some flexibility about the timing of the major items and if you could let me know very soon which date would be convenient for the Prime Minister and whether she has a preference for one

/ of them

T Lankester Esq.



of them we will seek to settle the agenda with the other parties to the Council accordingly.

I am copying this letter to Ian Ellison, Ian Fair, Stuart Hampson, Bill Burroughs, and Martin Vile.

Ys ev,

ME.

M.A. HALL



COMMISSION

11



10 DOWNING STREET

Tim Lakester

All dates are available - but
9 January will be
marginally more
convenient than the
others as the House
will be sitting.
It's pencilled in -
the others aren't.

R.J.

25/10.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 November 1979

The Prime Minister has now considered your letter of 25 October about future meetings of NEDC.

The Prime Minister would like to take the Chair at the NEDC meeting on 9 January on the basis that the agenda for that meeting will be the papers mentioned in your letter on technological change, industrial adjustment and employment; a report from the Chairman of a Sector Working Party; and some detailed aspect of industrial performance. No doubt these papers will be circulated well in advance, but the Prime Minister has specifically asked whether we could see an outline of the SWP Chairman's report before he makes it.

I would be grateful for briefing in due course. If for any reason the agenda has to be changed, please could you let me know immediately.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Ian Ellison (Department of Industry), Ian Fair (Department of Employment), Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade), Bill Burroughs (Department of Energy) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

I. P. LANKESTER

Martin Hall, Esq., M.V.O.,
HM Treasury.