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Inv Pat.

V
MS

Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP
Secretary of State
Department of Industry
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1

21 April 1980

Dear Sir

You wrote to me on 14 April supporting Geoffrey Howe's suggestion (in his letter of 31 January) that officials should jointly examine the time scale for renouncing ILO Convention 94 and repealing the FWR.

As I pointed out in my reply of 12 to Geoffrey Howe, the Cabinet decision was to review the FWR in the light of debate on Schedule 11 during the passage of the Employment Bill; and on that there is still some way to go. I also pointed out that the timetable for denouncing the ILO Convention is a straightforward matter of fact.

If, nevertheless, your officials or Geoffrey Howe's have suggestions about timetable or about possible "transitional arrangements" I should be quite happy for these to be discussed. I am asking my officials to follow this up.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, other members of E Committee and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours
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12 APR 1949