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PRIME MINISTER

THE NHS REVIEW

This note addresses three issues:

- (i) some further background reading;
- (ii) the timetable for the next stages of the review;
- (iii) the arrangements for the 24 April Chequers seminar with administrators and managers.

Background Reading

I attach five notes you might like to glance at:

Flag A - a stock-taking note by John O'Sullivan;

Flag B - an advance copy of a John Redwood pamphlet;

Flag C - a paper by Dr Brian Crawley, one of the participants at last Sunday's seminar;

Flag D - the paper by Patrick Minford, which you saw last weekend, but might like to have another look through.

Flag E - my record of the points made at Chequers.

You issued a general invitation for participants to send in thoughts; and I have separately written to several of them asking for further material on specific points they raised.

Review Timetable

We currently have a slot in the diary on 12 April, to consider the papers commissioned at the last review group meeting.

DHSS now tell me they will not have their contribution in good enough shape by that time. I take that with a pinch of salt.

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But having discussed the position with Richard Wilson, our conclusion is that it might be better to allow a bit more time to get the papers for the next meeting into shape. ✓

The next meeting after that presently in the diary is on 27 April. Ideally, we might try to rearrange the 12 April meeting for the week beginning 18 April. But that is a very difficult week when you have two full days away. There is also the thought that it could be worth waiting until after the second Chequers seminar on 24 April before having another review group meeting. ✓

Must not
So it may be best just to cancel the 12 April review group meeting and have the next meeting on 27 April. If you wanted another talk before then, we might use the 12 April slot for a small meeting - say, Richard Wilson, John O'Sullivan and me - to discuss the issues arising from John's note at Flag A. Content? ✓

24 April Seminar

I did not provide you with invitation letters to the 24 April meeting until after we had seen how the arrangements worked on 27 March. I think that format was successful, and suggest we should now proceed on the same basis for 24 April.

In the early discussion with John Moore and Tony Newton, we identified a guest list of twelve. Content to confirm the guest list should be:

NHS

- ✓ Sir Don Wilson - North West RHA
- ✓ Duncan Nicol - North West
- ✓ Bill Doughty - North West Thames
- ✓ Chris West - Portsmouth
- ✓ Roger Stokoe - North West Thames
- ✓ Mr Tiley - St Albans

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✓ Michael Carter - Member of Somerset Health Authority
and Chairman of the Western Provincial Area of the
Party

✓ Either Mr T A Ward (Chairman) or Mr I N Smith (District
General Manager) of the Somerset Health Authority

*- who wrote the excellent letter I received?
I think it was the General Manager*

Private Health

Sue Quinn - Portland Street Hospital

Mike Smith - BUPA

Ken Burgess - Shanning International

Tony Byrne - Independent Hospitals Association

I take it you would not want both Messrs Ward and Smith from
Somerset (as well as Michael Carter). My inclination would be
to go for Smith ✓ Content? *Yes not*

I assume you would want to invite the same "home team" as for
the last seminar - mainly Messrs Moore, Newton and Major as
the Ministerial team; Sir Roy Griffiths; and Richard Wilson,
John O'Sullivan and me.

If you are content, I will submit invitation letters to this
group for your signature before you go to Turkey. Twelve
guests plus eight home team plus Mr Thatcher for lunch makes
21. *Agreed not*

One final point is whether to have a pre-arranged introductory
speaker as we did with Sir John Butterfield. I think this
would be a good idea again in order to break the ice; and with
the mixed public/private guest list it might be sensible to
line up one from each "camp". Do you have any preferences, or
are you content for me to organise this in conjunction with
Tony Newton? *Yes not*

PRCG.

PAUL GRAY

31 March 1988

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DASAJW