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PRIME MINISTER

NHS REVIEW MEETING: TUESDAY 17 JANUARY

I enclose the papers for next Tuesday's final (hopefully) meeting of the NHS Review Group.

These are:

✓ Flag A - the revised White Paper text;

✓ Flag B - the Cabinet Office brief;

✓ Flag C - the Policy Unit brief;

✓ Flag D - the paper by Kenneth Clarke on additional consultants.

Richard Wilson's brief (Flag B) provides material both on handling the meeting and detailed points on the draft White Paper. I suggest you read that first. Then, if you want to go through the revised draft in detail, I suggest you work through it chapter by chapter, with the Cabinet Office and Policy Unit detailed comments to hand. I have added a few extra thoughts in the margin of Richard Wilson's note.

The note on consultants at Flag D has only just come in and is not covered in the briefs. You will want to consider whether to discuss this paper separately at the end of Tuesday's meeting, just with the Chancellor, Chief Secretary and Mr Clarke, and to take that opportunity for a first exchange of views on the potential trade-off with the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body Report (by the time of Tuesday's meeting, Kenneth Clarke will have been briefed by his Permanent Secretary on the DDRB Report).

I have let Bernard Ingham have a copy of the latest draft of the White Paper so that he can brief himself on the content and advise on the presentational aspects. One point I have

marked on Richard's brief is that you will want to reflect on what, if any, role you wish to play in the presentation of the White Paper.

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PAUL GRAY

13 January 1989

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