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PRIME MINISTER

LIAISON COMMITTEE

I believe the papers we are producing on the public perception and presentation of Government policy by Departments are most helpful and the reviews are very encouraging. However, I am concerned that there are one or two more important issues that do not lend themselves to such treatment and perhaps we should consider commissioning some work to cover these areas.

1. Nationalised Industries

This is a most important area, where our policies are not understood and our achievements not appreciated. It is an area of continued concern but we have taken and are taking quite a number of steps to improve the efficiency and successful development of the Nationalised Industries, both amongst those whose correct role is in the Private Sector and also amongst those that are likely to remain in the Public Sector.

We all know of the areas of concern both by private consumers and the business community. We should set out our policies in this area very clearly.

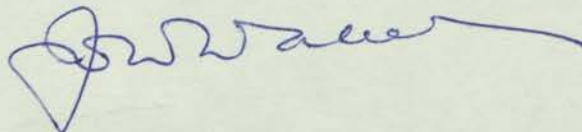
2. International Affairs

The story here spreads across several different Departments, not just the FCO and Defence. MAFF and Trade have important contributions to putting into proper perspective our policies, problems and achievements in this area.

3. Efficiency of Government

Our efforts to improve the efficiency of Government, and the effect of the Government's policies on private individuals and business needs to be spelt out. It is not just Rayner and Civil Service numbers but also our pressures on Local Authorities as well as changes in procedures in the Inland Revenue, etc. Reductions in form filling, and the lessening of the burden of Government on individuals and business.

I have copied this minute to other members of the Liaison Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Wakeham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOHN WAKEHAM

1 September 1982

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