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CONFIDENTIAL

For Cabinet folder.

Prime Minister

Ref. A083/1693

PRIME MINISTER

Are you content with the attached press notice, including the quotation attributed to you in the background note? Agree that it should be published on Thursday afternoon? It is bound to leak once you have told Cabinet. FERB 15.6.

You should take the opportunity at Cabinet tomorrow to tell your colleagues that you have decided, after consultation with some of them, that the time has come to bring an end to the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS).

2. It has been a valuable source of analysis and collective advice to Ministers in successive Governments since it was established in 1971. Developments in the meantime have, however, diminished the need for it and you have come to the conclusion that the time has come to bring it to an end.

3. Your decision has of course been foreshadowed in the press and you should perhaps say that, in order to eliminate further uncertainty, you propose to make an announcement later in the day.

4. I attach a copy of the draft press notice which has been prepared.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 June 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A083/1699

MR BUTLER

Press Notice on the CPRS

I have had a number of comments on the draft I sent you
--- earlier in the day. I attach a revised draft herewith. I am also
--- attaching a second copy of the revised draft for you to attach to
the brief which I have prepared for the Prime Minister to use at
Cabinet.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 June 1983

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Ref. A083/1692

MR BUTLER

cc Mr Caines
Mr Stevens

I attach a draft press notice on the CPRS, revised in the light of our discussion this morning with Mr Caines.

2. The wording of paragraph 4 of the draft press notice reproduces the phraseology used in Annex A of the Government's observations on the First Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology (Cmnd 8591).

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 June 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

The Prime Minister has reviewed the arrangements for support to Ministers on policy analysis and advice, and in particular the role of the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS).

2. The CPRS has been a valuable source of policy analysis and collective advice to Ministers in successive Governments since it was established in 1971. In the meantime, however, Departments have established or expanded their own policy units to support Ministers on policy analysis and long-term planning, and the Cabinet Office Secretariat's role in preparing issues for collective Ministerial discussion has considerably grown. A policy unit has also been established in the Prime Minister's office.

3. In the light of these developments, and of the development of the role of special advisers as a source of general advice to Ministers, the Prime Minister has decided, after consultation with her Cabinet colleagues, that the time has come to bring the CPRS to an end when it has completed work currently in hand, which is expected to be by the end of July.

4. Dr R B Nicholson, who has been Chief Scientist, CPRS, will continue as Chief Scientific Adviser, Cabinet Office, with the rank of Deputy Secretary, and will continue to provide, or organise the provision

of, advice to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of the Cabinet on scientific and technological matters or scientific and technological aspects of other issues which come to the Prime Minister or to the Cabinet Office.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Mr John Sparrow, the present Head of the CPRS, came into Government on secondment from Morgan Grenfell and Co plc in April 1982, and will return to that company when the CPRS is wound up. The Prime Minister said this afternoon:

"I am extremely grateful, as is the Government as a whole, to Mr Sparrow for interrupting his career to come and help us in Government as Head of the CPRS. I had learnt to value his wise advice before either of us was in Government, and I have valued it no less highly in these last fifteen months. He returns to the city with my warmest gratitude and good wishes."

2. The Prime Minister is anxious that everything possible be done to see that the interests of all the staff of the CPRS, whether they are civil servants or on secondment from outside, are not adversely affected by the decision to bring the CPRS to an end, and she has given instructions accordingly.