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PRIME MINISTER

SPACE POLICY

1 I was very pleased that the suggestions in my minute to you of 20 June for a CPRS review and an inter-departmental co-ordinating committee for space met with such a favourable response.

2 Michael Marshall explained the purpose of the review in the House on 11 July, and I should now like to set in train the arrangements for the co-ordinating committee which he will chair. I visualise its main purposes will be to implement the decisions which the Government will take when we have studied the conclusions of the CPRS review in the early autumn, and to ensure that important issues are satisfactorily identified and resolved.

3 A sensible administrative arrangement would be for the co-ordinating committee to be established as an official Cabinet Committee with a joint secretariat drawn from the Cabinet Office and this Department. I hope that you can agree to this.

4 It would be helpful if colleagues who are concerned with space matters would nominate a representative at Under Secretary level before the Summer Recess so that a first meeting can be organised in September in preparation for the receipt of the

/CPRS ...

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CPRS Report. At the same time, colleagues may like to mention any particular issues which they would like brought before the Committee at this meeting.

5 Copies of this minute go to the Members of E Committee, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Robert Armstrong and Robin Ibbs in the Central Policy Review Staff.

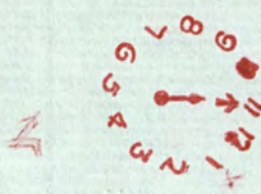
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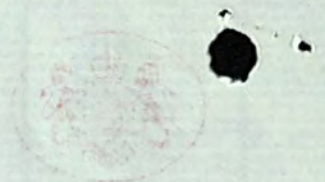
18 July 1980

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21 JUL 1980



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OK. R. WAIN