



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 June 1981

Dear Mr. Southgate,

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr. Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Unit has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays.

It is important that the proposals being worked out within Government Departments should be subject to external scrutiny from those whose interests and skills are directly in the field of IT, and there is a need for advice from people holding senior and active positions in industry to be made available to Government Departments, individually and collectively.

I should be very grateful if you would agree to become one of the external advisers to whom my colleagues and I, and the Information Technology Unit in the Cabinet Office, could look for such advice and guidance. I understand that you have indicated informally that you would be willing to advise

/ in this

in this way. The appointment would be honorary and unpaid; but I hope you will feel able to accept it.

Yours sincerely
Raymond DeLisle

Colin Southgate, Esq.

PS

TEL: ASCOT 21742

BROADWOOD HOUSE
LADY MARGARET ROAD
SUNNINGDALE
BERKSHIRE
SL5 9QH

cc Mr Whit (Co.)

25 June 1981

R26/6

Dear Prime Minister,

R
26/6

Thank you for your letter of 22 June.

I shall be delighted to accept your invitation to become an external adviser to the new Information Technology Unit and hope I will be able to make a useful contribution.

Yours
Sincerely
Colin Satchell.



Ind PSL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISERS

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A05113 of 19 June 1981.

She has written to Mr Southgate and I attach a copy of her letter.

stah.

22 June 1981

Ref: A05113



3.

Prime Minister

The letter to Mr

Southgate is below,
ready for your
signature.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

MR. WHITMORE

Information Technology Advisers

RM
19th

As Mr. Le Cheminant's minute to you of 9th June reported, one of the advisers to whom the Prime Minister wrote last month withdrew at a late stage for personal reasons. As a result, although an initial meeting was held with other advisers on 11th June, the announcement about them and the IT Unit was deferred.

2. Mr. Baker has now proposed as a replacement Mr. Colin Southgate, Chief Executive of the Computer Services Division of BOC Ltd. Like Mr. Mills he has an impressive career in the software industry and we think he is a good choice. A copy of his curriculum vitae is attached.

3. I suggest, therefore, that the Prime Minister should write to him on the lines of the attached draft letter inviting him to serve. When we have his acceptance I shall consult again on the form and timing of the announcement.

(Robert Armstrong)

19th June 1981

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Colin G Southgate Age: 42
Address: Broadwood House
Lady Margaret Road
Sunningdale Berks Tel: 0990 21742
Marital Status: Married, two boys, two girls
Present Position: Chief Executive
Computer Services Division
BOC Ltd
99 Staines Road West
Sunbury on Thames
Middx TW15 7AH Tel: 09327 85566

Career Summary


Left school at 18 with intention of becoming an actuary. Soon became disillusioned and joined the newly formed ICT as a programmer. Worked on development and support of 1301 and then on 1900. Eventually moved into sales area in technical support management, then into area sales management.

In December 1969 left to form Software Sciences Ltd on behalf of Miles Roman. Formed consortium of staff to buy out from under Miles Roman collapse and was Chief Executive until 1980. Sold to BOC in December 1979 on a three year buy-out deal, total price in excess of £8 million.

Asked in March 1980 to take over Division, made up of a collection of purchased services companies, either 100% or partially owned. At this time the largest independent computer services activity in the UK, T/O £35 million. Became Chief Executive in May 1980. The Division consists of Software Sciences with T/O £16 million in the year 1980/81, Datasolve (IBM bureau) - T/O £13 million, Knight (Contract Staff Agency) - T/O £4 million and Datastream (managed by BOC, however only 40% owned) - T/O £7 million, BOC's internal computing group and a 40% holding in TRIAD (software house). Profit for the year will be £2 million and running at 3-3½ (annualised) in last quarter, with 1400 staff.

Software Sciences record in last 5 years is as follows (ignoring BOC involvement and add-ons.)

SSL	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Trading Profit	200	284	396	620	1100 (est.)



DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
MR. COLIN SOUTHGATE, BROADWOOD HOUSE,
LADY MARGARET ROAD, SUNNINGDALE, BERKS.

Information Technology

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr. Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Unit has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays.

2. It is important that the proposals being worked out within Government Departments should be subject to external scrutiny from those whose interests and skills are directly in the field of IT, and there is a need for advice from people holding senior and active positions in industry to be made available to Government Departments, individually and collectively.

3. I should be very grateful if you would agree to become one of the external advisers to whom my colleagues and I, and the Information Technology Unit in the Cabinet Office, could look for such advice and guidance. I understand that you have indicated informally that you would be willing to advise in this way. The appointment would be honorary and unpaid; but I hope you will feel able to accept it.



CMG (Computer Management Group) Ltd

Lennig House Masons Avenue Croydon CR0 1EH 01-688 2261

BEM/JEP

10 June 1981

sub *cc Mr Wright (C.O.)*

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

12
18/6

Dear Prime Minister

Information Technology Advisory Committee

As I believe you have already been told, I have found it necessary to withdraw from the Panel for personal reasons.

I am very sorry not to have recognised the impact of these reasons at an earlier stage, when I would have saved everybody a lot of bother.

Yours sincerely

B E Mills

11 JUN 1981



10:10
11 JUN 1981

*Copies to Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear].*

2.



Prime Minister

To note.

P.0497

MR WHITMORE

cc: Mr Moore
Mr Wright
Mr Courtney
Mr Stevens

HLH

Gi

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*with
CAB ? a GR*

Thank you for your minute of 8 June recording the Prime Minister's reactions to my submission of 5 June on the above subject.

2. Unfortunately there has been a last-minute development which alters the timetable. One of the assessors, Mr Bryan Mills, has just indicated that, for personal reasons, he feels it necessary to withdraw his acceptance of appointment as an adviser. He will be writing to the Prime Minister to express his regrets. In the circumstances Mr Baker's view is that it would be preferable to defer an announcement until a successor has been found - a process which may take two weeks - rather than have two bites at the cherry. This would point to an announcement around the end of the month. We will let you have a revised draft PQ answer, incorporating the Prime Minister's suggestions, when the new name is available.

3. Meanwhile it is, so I understand, Mr Baker's intention to continue with the plan to have a first meeting with the five remaining advisers on 11 June. But there will be no publicity.

P Le CHEMINANT

Cabinet Office

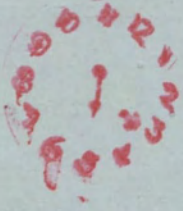
9 June 1981

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Faint handwritten text in the upper right corner.

19 JUN 1988





CMG (Computer Management Group) Ltd

Lennig House Masons Avenue Croydon CR0 1EH 01-688 2261

Handwritten: Sub Tech 12/10/81

BEM/JSL

4 June 1981

Handwritten: R5
pps

Handwritten: a to height (L.)

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Handwritten: R
5/6

Thank you for your letter of the 26th May inviting me to become an external adviser on information technology. I shall, of course, be very pleased to help and I much appreciate being asked.

I look forward to the first meeting which I believe has been arranged for the 11th June.

Yours sincerely

B E Mills

R3015
a la Knight (Co.)

29 May, 1981

The Right Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

2 pps

12
22/5/81

Dear Prime Minister,

I have received your letter of the 26th May, 1981 requesting that I provide you and your colleagues with advice on actions being taken or proposed by Government Departments in the field of information technology.

I have pleasure in confirming my willingness and interest in supporting the Government and the Department of Industry in this way and will make myself available as required.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Davies.

R29/5-

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMPUTER LABORATORY

Head of Department
Dr. R. M. Needham
Director of the University
Computing Service
Dr. D. F. Hartley

Corn Exchange Street
Cambridge CB2 3QG
Telephone (0223) 352435

cc Mr Wright (Co.)

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher M.P.,
10 Downing Street
London SW1

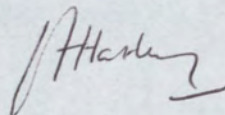
*R
1/6*

29 May 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

I was honoured to receive your letter of 26th May 1981, inviting me to act as an external adviser in the field of Information Technology. I am pleased to accept and look forward to the opportunity of assisting in this work.

Yours sincerely,



D.F. Hartley



REDIFFUSION
Computers

REDIFFUSION COMPUTERS LTD.

Kelvin Way, Crawley, Sussex, RH10 2LY
Telephone: Crawley (0293) 31211
Cables: Redcom Crawley
Telex: 877369

MJA/ED

cc to Wright

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

27th May, 1981

R29

Dear Prime Minister,

R2915

Thank you for inviting me to become an external adviser on Information Technology. I am happy to accept and hope that, as a working practitioner, I can contribute to what is already a dynamic and positive approach being taken by the Government to this vital area for the nation's prosperity.

As an adviser, I will be acting in a personal capacity, and I look forward to working with the team to achieve excellent results.

Yours sincerely

Michael S. Aldrich

TELEPHONE: 01-580 6633
TELEGRAMS: MULLECTRON, LONDON, TELEX

MULLARD HOUSE,
TORRINGTON PLACE,
LONDON, WC1E 7HD.

27th May 1981

R29

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

with letter

Dear Mrs Thatcher

R29/15

Thank you for your letter of the 26th May.

I should like to confirm my informal indication to the Department of Industry that I shall be very pleased to become one of the external advisers to the Cabinet on the basis outlined in your letter.

*Yours sincerely
I H Cohen*

I H Cohen

Charles N Read
Director

Inter-Bank Research Organisation

32 City Road
London EC1Y 1AA

tel 01-628 3070
telex 887440

R28
CF pps

cc for Wright

CNR/JW
27 May 1981

IBRO

The Rt Hon Mrs M H Thatcher PC MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

12
2/5

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 26 May.

I am very happy to agree to become one of the external advisers to you and your colleagues on the subject of Information Technology.

I am certain that this is a matter of national importance and I will contribute to the best of my ability to your programme of action.

Yours sincerely
Charles N Read.



HS.
file
acc

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

Dear Mr. Reed.

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr. Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Secretariat has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays.

It is important that the proposals being worked out within Government Departments should be subject to external scrutiny from those whose interests and skills are directly in the field of IT, and there is a need for advice from people holding senior and active positions in industry to be made available to Government Departments, individually and collectively.

I should be very grateful if you would agree to become one of the external advisers to whom my colleagues and I, and the Information Technology Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, could

/ look

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look for such advice and guidance. I understand that you have indicated informally to the Department of Industry that you would be willing to advise in this way. The appointment would be honorary and unpaid; but I hope you will feel able to accept it.

Yours sincerely

Margaret DeLester

C.N. Read, Esq.



HB
file acc

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

Dear Mr. Mills,

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr. Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Secretariat has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays.

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Yours sincerely
Margaret DeLoraine

B. Mills, Esq.



HS
file acc

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

Dear Mr. Davies,

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/ Information

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Yours sincerely

Reginald Heber

C.A. Davies, Esq.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

AS
ccw
file
Dear Mr. Hartley,

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/ Information *D*

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Yours sincerely
Raymond Stiller

D. Hartley, Esq.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

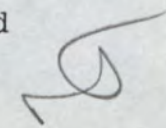
HS.
file
ccco
Dear Mr. Coker.

As you will know, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development has advised the Government of the importance of the United Kingdom being fully aware of the opportunities offered by the developments in information technology. The Government intend that full advantage of these opportunities should be taken, and accordingly have set in motion a programme of action within Government Departments. Mr. Kenneth Baker, a Minister of State in the Department of Industry, has been designated as Minister for Information Technology; and a small Information Technology Secretariat has been set up in the Cabinet Office, to make sure that this programme is pursued vigorously and without delays.

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/ look



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Yours sincerely

Raymond Thelker

I.H. Cohen, Esq., T.D.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1981

Handwritten: HS.
Handwritten: free
Handwritten: Dear Mr. Aldrich.

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/ Information

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Yours sincerely
Raymond Stiller

K.J. Aldrich, Esq.

3

PRIME MINISTER

Attached are letters for you to send to the six external advisers on information technology. I had thought that these should be sent after Robert Armstrong has sounded out one other adviser from one of the major electronic companies; but the Cabinet Office now advise that these letters should go off right away. You can write in similar terms if Robert comes up with somebody.

When we have the replies, we will let you have a draft written PQ to announce all this.

IL
..

21 May 1981

File

I H Cohen Esq Managing Director, Mullard Ltd
Torrington Place
LONDON WC1E 7HD tel. 01 580 6633

C N Read Esq, Director, Inter Bank Research Org.
32 City Road
London EC1Y 1AA tel. 01 628 3070

B Mills Esq, Chairman, Computer Management Group Ltd (CMG)
Sunley House
Bedford Park
Croydon Surrey CR0 2AP tel 01 681 7631

K J Aldrich Esq, Managing Director, Rediffusion Computers Ltd
9/27 Kelvin Way
Crawley, Sussex RH10 2LY tel 0293 31211

Dr D Hartley, Director, Cambridge University Computing Service
Cambridge University Computer Laboratory
Corn Exchange St
Cambridge CB2 3QG tel 0223 352435

C A Davies Esq, Information Technology Ltd (ITL)
22 Hyde
Winchester
Hants S023 7DR tel 0962 65353