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PRIME MINISTER

cc: Mr. Redwood

COMPETITION POLICY

As agreed, I put to Mr. Tebbit the proposals contained in the minute drafted by Sir Robert Armstrong. Under this:

- (i) he would be asked to take on a wider co-ordinating role for competition policy;
- (ii) he would develop a programme of action;
- (iii) this programme of action, developed after a series of bilaterals with colleagues, would be processed through EA.

The difference from the proposals discussed at your meeting with Mr. Tebbit and Mr. Fletcher is that EA would be used rather than a new committee dedicated to competition policy.

The Secretary of State is unhappy with this. He feels that if he is to complete (i) and (ii) successfully, he needs to be able to report it to a committee whose membership is sympathetic to the objective of promoting competition. Without this, he would be reluctant to take on the co-ordinating role.

Before any minute is sent out, he would like a chance to speak to you about this. Agree a meeting at which Sir Robert Armstrong would also be present?

AT

I No ^(M.T.) think he is right
 The point had escaped me although
 we did discuss it not

24 January, 1984