



Prime Minister

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I asked the Treasury  
for this - in case you

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000

8

January 1982

get asked  
about it  
on Sunday

Michael Scholar Esq  
Private Secretary  
No.10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

MUS 8/1

Dear Richard,

We spoke this morning about the Chancellor's weekend meeting which is mentioned in today's Times.

As in the past, the Chancellor thought that it would be helpful to have a full discussion of future economic strategy and current public expenditure issues with his Ministerial colleagues, advisers, and senior Treasury officials. It is not a meeting at which any operational decisions are to be taken, but rather is intended as a mind-clearing exercise in preparation for the work of the next few weeks.

In the Chancellor's view, such a discussion gains from being held away from the interruptions inevitable in Whitehall. The last such meeting was held at Sunningdale; on this occasion the venue is Chevening, where the Foreign Secretary has, I understand, held a similar meeting.

Although some wives will be at Chevening for the weekend, they will not of course participate in any of the discussions, but will follow their own programme of activities. A charge is being made to cover the cost of their board and lodging at Chevening.

In response to Press enquiries we are explaining the purpose of holding the meeting away from usual office pressures; that its cost is modest as it is taking place in the Government establishment; and that wives are paying their own way.

Yours ever,  
J O Kerr

J O KERR  
Principal Private Secretary