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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215)
GTN 215)
(Switchboard) 215 7877

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Alison Ward
c/o Chief Whip's Office
12 Downing Street
London SW1

6 February 1984

Dear Alison Ward

Here is a list of possible issues that may come to a head in the near future :

- 1 Jaguar privatisation - decision early February. Problem of private shareholders.
- 2 BL Trucks Division - pending re-organisation and possible closures.
- 3 British Shipbuilders - on-going re-organisation and possible closures.
- 4 British Steel Corporation - decision on strip mills (unlikely to be fully resolved before Easter).
- 5 Post Office - closure of one thousand counters in urban areas over the next 2-3 years.
- 6 Post Office - tariff increases (but unlikely to be substantial).
- 7 Direct Broadcasting Satellite - possible collapse of programme without BBC/IBA agreement.
- 8 ESPRIT - need to resolve UK Government's position, and then need to obtain agreement with EC partners.
- 9 Trade relations with United States - various problems, all of which seem likely to be exacerbated in run-up to presidential elections.
- 10 BT - proposal for a joint venture with IBM for network services and BT's prospective purchase of IBM, instead of ICL, computers for its area computing systems.



The precise timing of most of these points is unclear, but all of these could become relevant in the period between now and Easter, although many of them could well be continuing problems thereafter.

You sincerely
Ken [unclear]

(p) MICHAEL DOBBS
SPECIAL ADVISER

No Special Adviser in these Departments

Sent direct by
Mark Proby to →
Ed. Whitelan

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