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17 February 1986

**TREASURY MINUTE REPLYING TO THE 29TH, 30TH AND 36TH - 38TH
 REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, 1984-85**

The Treasury wishes to publish as a Command Paper a Treasury Minute in response to the Public Accounts Committee's 29th, 30th, 36th to 38th Reports 1984-85. The text has been agreed between the Treasury and the Departments to whom the PAC reports were addressed; and approved by the Financial Secretary who has agreed to the Treasury Minute being published in his name.

2. The reply to the 29th Report gives notice that the Government will give effect to one of the Committee's recommendations in the Finance Bill, we suggest therefore that we publish the Treasury Minute at 3.30pm on Wednesday 26 February having laid it before Parliament on the previous day.

3. We should, as usual, supply copies of the Treasury Minute just before publication to the Departments who have contributed to the reply, to PAC members to the C&AG and the Lobby.

4. I doubt that the Treasury Minute will attract much attention. It is not controversial and there are no particularly newsworthy features. I attach for information a list of the reports dealt with in the Minute with a brief description of the subject matter.

5. May we have your agreement to proceed with these arrangements?

6. I am sending copies of this letter to Murdo Maclean, David Morris and Bernard Ingham.

R.T. Savage

R T SAVAGE
 Deputy Parliamentary Clerk

PAC Reports covered by the Treasury Minute

29th Report 1984-85: Independent Broadcasting Authority:
Additional Payments by Programme Contractors

Requiring the Home Office to re-examine the basis of the calculation of the "levy".

30th Report 1984-85: Unemployment Benefit Service.
(Evasion, Fraud and Abuse)

Requiring the DHSS to set up an investigation to estimate the extent of undetected fraud and to improve measures to prevent evasion and fraud.

36th Report 1984-85: Fixed Rate Export Finance

Requiring Export Credits Guarantee Department to take steps to ensure that the facility is used to support Britain rather than foreign industry.

37th Report 1984-85: Financial Performance of the Covent Garden Market Authority

Requiring MAFF to adopt a more decisive and coherent strategy in determining the financial regime under which the Authority should work.

38th Report 1984-85: Investment Activities of the Scottish Development Agency, the Welsh Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board

Requiring the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office to take steps to improve monitoring and control systems so that they can set financial targets that the Agencies can meet.

