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Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP
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 Elizabeth House
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WBP
 15 March 1985

Dear Keith,

INCREASING THE OUTPUT OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

You sent me a copy of your letter to Norman Tebbit of 8 March.

I agree with you that it is important for the Government to respond quickly to meet the identified need for additional graduates in shortage subjects. The assessment of Sir Robert Clayton and his colleagues, together with the evidence presented to UGC suggest there will be adequate industrial commitment to the courses which you have put forward for a 1985 intake. They certainly offer good value for money. On that basis, and in view of the time constraint, I am prepared to accept your proposed list for Phase 1.

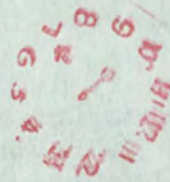
As far as Phase 2 is concerned, I agree with your suggestion that we will need satisfactory evidence of industrial commitment before bids are accepted. I am doubtful about the idea of including the public sector, where a switch has already taken place without additional resources, but I am willing to reconsider should there be a very clear preference on the part of industry for polytechnic graduates.

As to the announcement of the initiative, I am content with either of the options on timing.

I am sending copies of this letter to recipients of yours.

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