



CEBC

B/F 18/6

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PRIME MINISTERThe Proposed National Council for Vocational Qualifications

I have seen a copy of Lord Young's minute to you of 9 June proposing the creation of a new National Council for Vocational Qualifications. The new body would be sponsored by four separate Secretaries of State, and the annex to Lord Young's minute indicates where responsibility would lie in particular day-to-day circumstances. While these arrangements are rather complex I think they can be made to work.

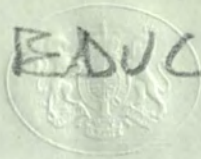
2. There may be some in the educational establishment who will argue that the functions of the new body would indicate that the lead responsibility for it within Government should lie with the Department of Education and Science rather than the Department of Employment. If so, it could be pointed out that the close DES interest is recognised by the central role proposed for Mr Patten, and that overall the functions are at least as close to training (Department of Employment) as to education (DES). The need for joint sponsorship of the new body may however be seen by some as a further argument in favour of creating a Department of Education and Training which, subject to territorial interests, could take sole responsibility for such initiatives.

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13 June 1986

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COMMISSION