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● SUBJECT cc MASTER



10 DOWNING STREET

25 July 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear John,

MEETING WITH MR. RALPH HOWELL M.P.

The Prime Minister this morning met Mr. Ralph Howell.

Most of the discussion was along lines with which you will already be familiar. Mr. Howell stressed the value he thought there would be in a scheme which required people claiming benefit to be available to do work as directed by Unemployment Benefit Offices. He also regretted the separation of Job Centres from Unemployment Benefit Offices. The Prime Minister answered along the lines of your brief.

Mr. Howell noted that the National Farmers Union were proposing that three million trees should be planted. This could be useful work for unemployed people to do. (The Prime Minister agreed that this could be tied into eg the Community Programme; the people concerned would need to be carefully supervised.) He also drew attention to the way in which some people could be employed for a few days a week and yet still claim unemployment benefit for the remainder.

I am copying this letter to Ivor Llewelyn (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

Yours,

David

David Norgrove

John Turner, Esq.,
Department of Employment.

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