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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 March 1984

Dear Sir Alec

Thank you for your letter of 21 March. I am glad to see that you approve of the way in which the proposed review of the United Kingdom's commitment to high energy particle physics is to be conducted. The choices are certainly very difficult. Nevertheless I think it is absolutely right to conduct such a review. Meanwhile I will await your more considered thoughts on the matter.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Alec Merrison, D.L., F.R.S.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR:
SIR ALEC MERRISON, D.L., F.R.S.

21st March, 1984

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Personal and Confidential

Dear Prime Minister,

Sir Keith Joseph told me yesterday of the proposed ABRC/SERC review of high energy physics.

A little later, when I have had time to reflect a little on the matter, I should like to write to you about this. But in the meantime, while I would be passionately opposed to the United Kingdom abandoning high energy physics, I thought I should say to you that I think the approach which is being adopted to this difficult problem is a very fair one.

While I am writing, can I congratulate you on the stand you have made in Brussels on EEC financing? I am a very convinced 'European' and it is precisely because of that that I feel this financial nonsense must be put right.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Alec Merrison

The Right Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
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