

SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER

AUTUMN STATEMENT CABINET: 1 NOVEMBER

In line with established practice, the Treasury's public expenditure paper for next week's Cabinet will not explicitly reveal the new planning totals. But it will show the agreed additions to programme expenditure; and it would not then require enormous insight to work out the level of Reserves the Chancellor is likely to propose and so in turn deduce the new planning totals.

Given the danger of leaks, I therefore conclude it would be imprudent to circulate the Cabinet paper on Friday. I have agreed with the Treasury to plan for the paper to be circulated on Monday afternoon. You will see a draft over the weekend.

Content that the Cabinet paper should be circulated only the day before the meeting?

Yours

*Paul Gray*

PP PAUL GRAY

27 October 1988