RELEASE IMMEDIATE: 25th August, 1970

BRITISHLEYLAND TO CLOSE COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT

"British Leyland announces today that at the end of 1970 when the current years motor sport activities are at an end, the Competitions Department will be closed."

For the last two years, it has been the declared policy of British Leyland to only enter events from which maximum marketing and publicity benefit can be obtained. Although this has been generally achieved it has meant that a disproportionate amount of management time in the areas of design development and engineering has had to be devoted to competition at a time when the corporations forward model programme is being rapidly formed. It is now felt that the new model programme must take precedence in the immediate future. This decision does not preclude British Leylands possible entry into any sphere of motor sport in the future.

Re-entry would be considered in the context of British Leyland worldwide requirements in marketing.

Commenting today George Turnbull, Deputy Managing Director of British Leyland said:

"I should like to record our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Peter Browning the Competitions Manager, who is leaving the Corporation and to the Competitions Team at Abingdon, for all their hard work and dedication which has enabled us to record more successes than any other

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manufacturer over the past 16 years, and of course to all the famous crews.

We will continue to operate and expand the excellent facilities of the Special Tuning Department at Abingdon. This department supplies an ever increasing range of factory approved conversion kits for both the private motorist and the sporting enthusiast who wish to improve the performance of their cars or participate in motor sport with British Leyland products.

(Confirmation of story issued to wire services last night – Monday 24 August)