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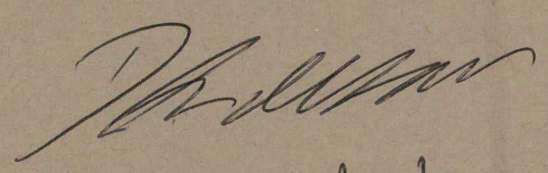
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PO CH | NL | 0502.
PT.A.

Chancellor's (Lawson) Papers:
Customs Drug Seizures 1989.

DD's : 25 Year



28/2/96.

PO CH | NL | 0502.
PT.A.



*pl cc Mrs Chaplin
and return to*

Board Room
H M Customs and Excise
New King's Beam House
22 Upper Ground
London SE1 9PJ
Telephone: 01-620 1313

mpw

*Maria
When is a
suitable
occasion for
this?*

FROM : THE CHAIRMAN

DATE : 18 April 1989

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

RECENT DRUGS SEIZURES

When we spoke recently you were receptive to my suggestion that you should be personally associated with the announcement of any future major drugs seizure. I have asked those here concerned to keep this in view so that, when a suitable opportunity arises, we can set something up with your office.

2. In the meantime, however, I thought that you might like to have at hand the attached speaking note on some of our recent successes. The last few weeks have seen some remarkable drugs hauls. This has included the most successful single month ever for drugs seizures (some £60 million at street values) and the largest ever confiscation order under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act (£1.7 million).

3. If you were able to use some or all of this material in an early speech or other public statement I know that it would give great encouragement to the staff concerned in the Investigation Division and on duty at the ports and airports. It would also be helpful if my office could be informed in advance if you can use the material so that we can alert our press office here.

J B UNWIN

cc Economic Secretary
Mr Gieve
Mr Call

Mrs Strachan
Mr Craggs
Mr Nash
Mr Tweddle
Mr Teller
Mr Hammond

RECENT CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DRUGS SEIZURES

In my Budget speech, I paid tribute to the achievements of my two Revenue Departments, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise. I would now like to add some comments about Customs and Excise in their role, not as revenue raisers, but as law enforcers in the field of illicit drug trafficking.

During **March** 1989 Customs had a remarkably successful month. They seized nearly 70 kilogrammes of heroin, over 190 kilogrammes of cocaine and over 5 tonnes of cannabis. By their successes, they have prevented the importation, in that one month alone, of drugs with a street value of approximately £60,000,000. In the course of these operations they arrested and charged 116 people with drugs offences.

The four most notable cases were:

- 2.3 tonnes of cannabis concealed in a concrete block, carried on a commercial lorry which arrived at Dover from Holland.
- 2 tonnes of cannabis and over 150 kilogrammes of cocaine concealed in a container of balsa wood from Ecuador via Le Havre.
- 46 kilogrammes of heroin seized at Dover concealed in a lorry, which had come from Turkey and had driven through Europe.
- 20 kilogrammes of cocaine seized in a London Hotel which had been imported from Peru via New York and Paris in a diplomatic pouch.

It is worth noting that in all these seizures the drugs arrived in this country via other European Community Member States. In addition, as a result of their co-operation with other Customs services, Customs were also directly responsible for the arrest of two Spaniards, a Frenchman, a Turk, a Nigerian, a Sri Lankan and two Americans and the seizure of over 15 kilogrammes of heroin in Madrid, Brussels and New York.

During the same month, Customs prosecutions for drug smuggling operations detected in earlier months resulted in the conviction of 51 people who were sentenced to a total of over 300 years imprisonment, and to the imposition of fines and confiscation order totalling nearly £2,000,000.

The three most notable cases involving major international drug smuggling organisations were:

- Sentences of 41 years imprisonment and confiscation orders totalling £176,000 in respect of the smuggling of 392 kilogrammes of cocaine, with one other major participant still to be sentenced.
- Twelve persons sentenced to a total of 95 years imprisonment as a result of their involvement in the smuggling of 36 kilogrammes of heroin by ships' crew members, by concealment in baggage, and in commercial importations of sandals.
- A confiscation order for nearly £1,700,000 was issued in respect of the importation of one third of a tonne of cannabis. The three principals had earlier been sentenced to a total of 18 years imprisonment.

These successes demonstrate very clearly the dedication and professional skills of Customs staff at ports and airports and in their Investigation Division. Their determination to try and stem the flow of drugs targeted on the U.K. and to bring justice to those who seek to make fortunes out of drug smuggling deserves the highest praise.

pl also PS/EST



FROM: MISS M P WALLACE
DATE: 3 MAY 1989

MR GIEVE (IDT)

cc Mr Culpin (with Mr Unwin's note of 18/4)
Mr Pickford
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie
Mr Call
Mr N Forman MP

DRUG SEIZURES

When we discussed potential Press Notices with the Chancellor last week, the conclusion was that the material in Mr Unwin's note of 18 April should be worked into a shorter Press Release*, and issued on the occasion of the next major Customs drugs haul.

... 2. I attach a shortened version. Could I have any comments on it by close tomorrow, Thursday? Then, if the Chancellor is content, I can check it with Customs, and put them on alert for a suitable opportunity.

* Customs, rather than a Treasury press release, I assume?

MOIRA WALLACE

...welcoming the news the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP commented:

"Today's haul is an impressive example of the success we are now seeing in the battle against drugs, thanks to the skill and efforts of Customs Investigation officers. In fact we have had an outstanding series of successes in this area: the [latest] figures [for March] show that it was Customs' most successful month ever, with seizures of drugs valued at £60 million. In the course of these operations 116 people were arrested and charged with drugs offences. And these figures exclude the drugs seized and people arrested as far away as Madrid, Brussels and New York, following international operations in which British Customs officers participated.

The fight against drugs has never been easy. And the stories behind these seizures reveal the drug traffickers' ever more ingenious attempts to evade detection - 2 tonnes of cannabis driven across Europe in a truck-load of balsawood; 20 kilogrammes of cocaine hidden in a diplomatic bag; or more than 2 tonnes of cannabis concealed in a concrete block. But the good news is that the growing ingenuity of the criminals is no match for the professionalism and dedication of Customs staff at ports and airports and in their investigation division: their efforts, and the results they have yielded, deserve our highest praise."



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Ch,
It is worth persevering
with this speech - behind
Stimman's Rhyonesque delivery, the
message is v. clear. I am struck
by the contrast between Boston + Washington on
p. 15 of the speech. It makes me wonder whether
there is any interdepartmental co-ordination here, in
dealing with this problem. Oughtn't there to be?

FROM : THE CHAIRMAN
 DATE : 4 May 1989

Economic Secretary

THE DRUG THREAT

I think you will be interested to see the attached note by Mr Tweddle covering a recent speech by the Head of the Drugs Enforcement Agency in New York.

2. Allowing for the rhetoric and hyperbole, it is, as Mr Tweddle says, a very powerful - and indeed horrifying - message. It must reinforce our insistence on retaining at our ports and airports, as part of a wider national anti drugs strategy, whatever controls and defences we consider necessary to stop drugs entering this country in the first place.

3. I am also copying this to the Chancellor since I am sure that he too will be interested to glance at it if he has the time.

J B Unwin
 J B UNWIN

cc Chancellor of the Exchequer

Check!
J.P. 5/5

Mr Craggs

cc CPS
Mrs Strachan
Mr Jefferson-Smith
Mr Nash
Mr Howard
Mr Russell
Mr Brown
Mr Walton

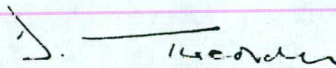
3 May 1989

ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS DRUGS CONFERENCE

I attach a copy of the speech made by Robert Stutman - head of the Drugs Enforcement Agency in New York - to this years ACPO Drugs Conference.

Leaving aside the American rhetoric and the evangelical delivery it is a simple and powerful message - we must learn from the New York experience and not let it happen in the United Kingdom. I believe the Home Secretary has asked for a copy of the speech and it will be interesting to see if it has any direct impact on the current initiatives on increasing the efforts to reduce cocaine trafficking and consumption.

I spoke to Mr Stutman at the Conference and he told me that in New York alone there are 600,000 cocaine addicts. He also explained that although he had said in his speech that enforcement had not made much difference in New York, this was not an argument for giving up on the enforcement side but, as recognised in the UK Government's strategy on tackling drug misuse, enforcement activities must work in parallel with demand reduction and educational campaigns.


Douglas Tweddle

Enc

CRACK - ITS EFFECTS ON A CITY AND A LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE - R.M.
STUTMAN, SPECIAL AGENT

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank you for the invitation. I have not been to Britain since 1975 and it is a pleasure to return, to see two things, number 1 - that the brotherhood of law enforcement officers around the world still does exist and certainly exists between you in Britain and we in America, and frankly, once again to reinforce my feeling that I had in 75 of the friendliness of the British people towards Americans and I would like to thank all of you for the reception I've got, not just from you frankly, but from all the British people. It's a pleasure to be here and I hope we can shed some light and share some information on, frankly, a very practical day to day street gut level of what's happening in the United States, viz., Crack, Cocaine. What some of our answers are and why the problem has become the way it has become. I will try to leave as much time at the end as I can because I have been a cop for 25 years, a Federal Law Enforcement Agent and I think, hopefully, we will be able to have some dialogue rather than me just talking to you for the next 40 minutes.

Let me start off, first of all by pointing out what I think is probably the most amazing thing about Crack that I can tell you. Three years ago Crack was a virtually unheard of term in the United States of America, virtually unheard of. The first newspaper article done about Crack in the New York City was published in the New York Times on November 25th, 1985, that was 3 and a half years ago. In the past 3 and a half years Crack has gone as a drug which was virtually

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unheard of in the largest city in the United States to now becoming 'the' drug of abuse in the largest cities in the United States. There are areas in New York where we can no longer find powdered Cocaine, Cocaine Hydrochloride, it is very difficult to find in some areas because the Crack traffickers have taken over. I would submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, that if you follow the drug scene at all worldwide, there is no other drug trend in history that comes close to have spreading that quickly across that great of a piece of society, The only one that I can remember, frankly if it's anything close, is LSD from the United States and that took five years to go from a very localised drug in San Francisco to becoming a national drug of abuse. Unless you think Crack is only a problem in New York City, only a problem in the inner city, let me point out to you that Crack is now a major drug of abuse in 49 out of the 50 States in the United States. It is a major drug of abuse in the heart of Conservative middle America, places like Houston, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; Kansas City, Missouri; Dallas, Texas. I gave a speech two months ago in Chatanooga, Tennessee; the heart of the bible belt and when I met with the Narcotics Squad Officers they told me that the degree of violence that has followed Crack has gone up 3-400% over the past six months. Crack, unlike what you may have seen on some of the United States based media, is an equal opportunity drug. It does affect blacks, whites, espanics. It affects rich, poor and inbetween and it has left the ghetto in United States and it has gone on to suburban America. It is truly a drug that has taken over our society and changed the face of our society. Now let me tell you a few of the ways that it has changed New York. For those of you who haven't visited New York over the past three of four years, I think you will find some very interesting changes. Some of them are very obvious, some of them are not so obvious. Let me share some of the changes with you that it has brought

about and then I will tell you why it has brought them about. First of all, Crack, unlike Heroin, is a drug that effects females as much as males. In the United States of America about 80% of our Heroin addicts are males and it has traditionally been that way. We are now finding in the United States that of all the Crack addicts we have seen, about 50% of them are female. Now what does that mean if you live in a big city, it means very simply the following - that at least in the United States most inner city families are ^{as} matri~~och~~chal in nature - they are run by women. These are the same women who here, before, had been fairly oblivious, not touched by the Heroin epidemic, they are today becoming Crack addicts. And, therefore, the last vestiges of family in the inner city, certainly in New York and most other major cities in the United States, are beginning to disappear. I would proffer to you, that's one of the major reasons that we are now seeing Crack addicts in New York, ten, eleven and twelve years of age and we no longer consider children as 'children runners' unless they are under the age of 15. We see, very often, kids 14, 15, 16 and 17 years of age as 'runners' and 'spotters' for Crack operations.

Now why has Crack done that? Number 1, Number 2, let me share some other numbers with you and I know numbers are boring as hell this time of the afternoon. But I think there are a couple that will show you, once again, where we are heading with the Crack epidemic in the United States. The percentage of, the number of reported child abuse cases in New York City has gone, in 1986 from 2200 reported cases to 1988, 8000 reported cases. It has almost gone up by 400%, almost all of them are the children of Cocaine/Crack using parents. And one figure which will be released in New York next week, which I think is absolutely frightening, to show you the wave of the future with Crack, is that last year, in New York City all of the children who died

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because of battering, child abuse, where parents literally beat their kids to death. Of all of the kids who died by battering in New York City, 73% were the children of Cocaine/Crack using parents. It is a drug that produces violence. We know it produces violence and the police in New York have been saying that for three years, we now have a study that will be released in about four weeks by a group called the 'Cocaine Hotline' in the United States that we think proves, beyond reasonable doubt, that the drug itself causes violence. You don't necessarily need a person with a predisposition towards violence. In a survey of 17,000 Crack users in the United States the 'Cocaine Hotline' is going to point out that:-

1. 47% of those Crack users had actually been involved, this is all under the influence of Crack, in a physical fight. 47% had been involved in a physical fight, 35% had been involved in assaults with weapons, 12% had been involved in child abuse and 1% had actually been involved in murders. That is a drug that, unlike any other drug that we have ever seen, produces those kind of numbers.

Now, what is Crack, unlike the myths or magic that you hear about, Crack is not a magic drug. It is nothing more or less than smoking Cocaine. If the Cocaine that Crack is made from started out at 60% purity then the Crack will be 60% purity. It is not magic that we go from 60-100%. The purity remains the same, its not extra strong, its no different than the Hydrochloride except we have taken it from a Hydrochloride state back to a base state and made it smokeable. So why does it produce this feeling that Cocaine doesn't necessarily produce. One very simple reason is that by smoking the drug it is the most efficient method of getting the drug to the brain. That's the

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only difference between Hydrochloride and Crack. Because of the way we ingest it, it is far more efficient. Now what do I mean by more efficient and what has happened with Crack. Well, those of us who have been in drug enforcement for a lot of years have probably been raised to believe, as I certainly was, that Heroin is pretty bad stuff. That it's pretty addicting etc., and in the past many of us were told, as a matter of fact, that Cocaine is a relatively harmless substance. As a matter of fact, if we want to look at why the Cocaine epidemic in the United States has grown so rapidly I would proffer to you we only have to look at what we told ourselves in the United States and possibly even in Great Britain, over the past decade. For instance, in November 1978 a gentleman named Doctor Peter Borne, who at that time was Special Advisor to President Carter, in charge of setting US drug policy gave an interview to Playboy Magazine in which he said "Cocaine is probably the most benign drug available on the streets of America today". In October, 1982, the Scientific America, which is not Playboy, that's as middle of the road as you can get. In October, 1982, we're not talking about 20 years ago, Scientific American had an article on Cocaine in which the lead sentence of the with paragraph was "Use of Cocaine is probably no more addicting than eating peanuts or potato chips", and that's what we told ourselves as a Nation until, frankly, about 1985. So why did the Cocaine epidemic hit us all of a sudden, for a very simple reason, we believed our own garbage. We told ourselves it was OK, we told ourselves it was relatively harmless, we told ourselves it certainly was not addicting and everybody believed it, so they tried it. And, unfortunately, with Cocaine Hydrochloride it takes about 16-18 months to become addicted and by the time we found out how addicting it was we had too many people trying it and becoming addicted. We now know the following:-

That Crack is the single most addicting drug available in the United States of America today and I would tell you, it is certainly the most addicting drug available in Europe.

Heroin is not even in the same ballpark gentlemen. Heroin, in the way we would put it in the United States, is double 'A' ball compared to the major leagues in Baseball. It is not even in the same ballpark.

Let me give you an example of what I am talking about. If those of you who have never worked with Heroin addicts, you know this to be true. A lot of Americans know their Heroin addiction by a film called "The Man with the Golden Arm", an old Frank Sinatra movie in which Frank Sinatra shot up Heroin one time and he was a Heroin addict for life. Well you and I know that's not true, there are number of different studies that show the average Heroin addict actually uses Heroin about five months before he or she is considered addicted. The actual average Cocaine Hydrochloride user, if he snorts Cocaine, uses Cocaine about 15 to 16 months before they are considered addicted and I am talking here about physical addiction. Forget that story that you used to here that Cocaine is not physically addicting, it is physically addicting. They've had to change the definition of addiction in the United States to fit Cocaine. Unfortunately both of those numbers are meaningless when it is compared to Crack. A study that will be released in the next two to three weeks will probably say the following that of all of those people who tried Crack three times or more, 75% will become physically addicted at the end of the third time. It is pointed out now that in most treatment centres in New York City the average Crack addict is addicted within five weeks of first use. Now, that's half the equation, let me tell you the other half of the equation, that's the bad news, if you thought the first

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half was bad news let me tell you the second half. Right now in the United States of America every major treatment centre will agree with the following statement and, in fact, the New York Times recently did a survey in which they talked to the head of every major treatment centre in the United States. Right now in the United States Crack is considered a virtually incurable addiction. Statistically there are no treatment centres that will show any long term remission of any statistically significant number of Crack addicts. By long term remission I mean remaining drug free for a year or more. So it is considered an incurable addiction in our country and yet it is a drug that of those people who try it three times, 75% become addicted. You don't have to be a mathematician to figure out you've got a hell of a problem when you've got a drug like that. Now let me take it one step further, if I were to retire today and decided that instead of being in the drug enforcement business I wanted to design a drug that's aimed for kids, that I'm going to market to kids - I couldn't improve on Crack. I simply couldn't improve upon it. Now let me tell you why, three reasons why I believe Crack has become such an epidemic in our country and especially for the kids in our country.

1. It is relatively inexpensive when you first buy it, now notice that I added those three or four words at the end, when you first buy it. Another myth about Crack is that it's a cheap drug. It is far from a cheap drug, it is an extremely expensive drug. As a matter of fact if today, I wanted to decide to convert my Hydrochloride to Crack I will immediately make myself a profit of about 300%. It is a very expensive drug, the difference is it is sold in very very small amounts. Now I apologise, I will have to use New York City figures because I certainly don't know the figures in England but let me give you a comparison. Before the

advent of Crack of a kid in New York wanted to buy Cocaine he had to lay out about \$80 for a gram of Cocaine. Those were the smallest amounts they were sold in, about \$80. Today, in New York, depending on what colour your skin is and what neighbourhood you happen to be buying it in you could purchase Crack for as little as \$3 to \$4 a vile. Now is that cheaper than the \$80, really not, for the very simple reason that that \$3 - \$4 worth only lasts eight to 10 minutes. It's like saying which is cheaper a gallon of milk^k that sells for \$2 of a half a pint of milk that sells for a quarter. Obviously on an ounce by ounce basis that half a pint of milk is much more expensive, yet there is a myth that Crack is very cheap. It isn't, it is extremely expensive, about three to four times expensive than Hydrochloride but, at least your kid doesn't have to lay out a lot of money at one time, \$5 or \$10 and any kid in the United States can come up with \$5 or \$10.

2. The second reason that Crack has become so popular in our country is that the method of ingestion is so non intrusive. No needles stuck in your arm, that's pretty intrusive. You don't even have to stick a white powder up your nose. I would proffer that's pretty intrusive. I bet nobody in this room has ever met anybody that's stuck white powder up their nose before they use Cocaine. Who does that, nobody, it's not a normal functioning thing to do. However, the way we use Crack, we in America have been led to believe and you in Britain certainly also, is relatively unobtrusive - we smoke it - that's all, you smoke it. Unobtrusive method of ingestion, it doesn't bother anybody to smoke something.
3. And then there's the third reason and, frankly, the one I think is overlooked very often and that very simply is the following. We

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should never forget the reason people use drugs and I know you had a Psychiatrist speak, I think it was yesterday, and I apologise for not having heard him. I don't think he would have disagreed with me. People use dope for one reason - I want to feel good now, I don't want to wait for it, I don't want to work for it, I want to feel good now. Crack is the ultimate "feel good now". If I inject Heroin right now it takes me about two and a half minutes to feel the full effect of that Heroin. If I inhale Cocaine, it takes me about three minutes to feel the full effect of that Cocaine. If I smoke Crack.....that period time, five to ten seconds - I am stoned. I have reached my full level of being under the influence of drugs in five to ten seconds and the problem, of course, is that it only lasts about 12 minutes and then you come down.

For those three reasons Crack has become extremely popular in our country. Now, of course, the other half of the coin, the bad side if you will is, unfortunately, it is clearly the single most addicting drug we have seen in the United States ever. As a matter of fact we see almost no new Heroin addicts in our country. The average age of Heroin addict in the United States every year is getting older, that's the good news. The bad news is, unfortunately, all of those kids who, in the past, were becoming Heroin addicts are now becoming Crack addicts and they tell us, upfront, when we talk to informants on the street. They tell us upfront "Heroin is an old person's drug - Crack is our thing man" and they are using Crack and they are becoming very addicted to Crack. Well, the obvious problem that it has caused the United States, certainly in New York and one of the gentlemen this morning, I think it was probably Derek Todd I think mentioned it, is the level of violence that this has caused in the United States. Crack

10.

does two things, two psychological things, and again you don't have to be a psychologist to figure out how dangerous this is. Number one it gives you a feeling of omnipotence, I am the strongest S.O.B. in the world, nobody can touch me and at the same time it gives you a sense of paranoia, why are you picking on me. Well you can imagine when you mix those two things together the problems you start to get with the user. Now we'll take that one step further, what is interesting if you look at the crime statistics in New York. The murder rate continues to go up as it does in Washington DC but a great deal of the murder happens to be between people within the same family or between relatives or friends, good friends, and the reason for that, of course, is that paranoia causes you to first turn against your friends or your family but, unfortunately, of course, we now have a second issue that has come up in New York. We have, interestingly Derek, not seen it yet in Washington, that is the following. That the rules of law enforcement in New York have changed significantly and they have changed, unfortunately, probably for ever. Unlike you, we do, in the United States, as you know, have a history of law enforcement officers carrying weapons but I will tell you generally there was an unwritten rule, certainly in New York, that you don't, knowingly, shoot at cops. Now, sometimes in the heat of an arrest our officers, police officers get shot, generally the unwritten rule is you do not shoot at cops. That rule has changed in the United States and it has certainly changed in New York. And again, let me give you a couple of numbers to let me show you what I mean. Last year in New York City there were 8 New York City Police Officers killed in the line of duty. 8 of them were killed, excuse me, 7 of the 8 were killed by crack involvement. And in every one of the cases the guy who shot the cop knew ahead of time he was shooting a police officer. It used to be, in our business, in drug enforcement, that the most dangerous part of the job

(1)

was generally there were two. One of which happened during one of your excellent presentations this morning that I heard happened to be on undercover work. It used to be the dangerous part of undercover work, of course, was a bad guy would think you were another bad guy and he'd shoot you because he thought you were a bad guy or the second part of the problem was, when you kicked the door in and they didn't know who was outside kicking the door in and they shot out. Very often thinking they were shooting at another bad guy. Those have changed, they now shoot at law enforcement officers knowing they are law enforcement officers. We had a meeting the other day in our office, I don't know if it made the press over here but in our country it was quite a major press thing because it was the first time it had ever happened. The President of the United States visited our office about three weeks ago and he sat down, at his request, for 30 minutes with 10 of my undercover agents to see what's really happening on the street and one agent summed it up, I think, better than anything I could. He said "Mr. President 3 years ago if a bad guy found out that I was an undercover fed he'd say to me get the hell out of here". He said "today he would kill me". Now again, let me tell you and give you an example of what has happened in New York City. I have approximately 300 Federal DEA Agents that work for me in New York, in addition we have about 250 New York City and State Police assigned to my office, but 300 Federal Agents in the New York Office. In the last 9 months I have had 4 of my agents shot, 3 of them have been shot in the head, 2 of whom were very fortunate and lived the third of which turned out be, what I think has become the most heinous crime against a law enforcement officer ever in the United States or close to it and that was the assassination of one of my agents, a gentleman named Evert Hatcher who was working undercover. The traffickers found out before they ever met him he was a Federal Agent, they made a knowing

decision to meet with him. They met with him, knowing he was a Federal Agent, cleaned off his surveillance, they knew he would probably have surveillance with him, cleaned off his surveillance, met him an hour later, satisfied there were no other Feds with him, took a 357 and shot him twice in the side of the head. He never knew what hit him. The most cold blooded assassination I have ever seen of a law enforcement officer. That is the philosophy that we now see in New York and it is due specifically, in my way of thinking, to the advent of Crack and Cocaine in that particular city. It has changed the face of the city

Now let me share with you a couple of other things that I think are important. When Crack first became evidence in New York. The first stories, as I say, were written late 1985, early 1986. A lot of people in our country looked around and said it's you crazy people who live in New York, you all got funny accents, you're all nuts, it can't happen anywhere in New York and it will certainly never leave the Ghetto. That was the first philosophy of the United States and boy in my own Agency, as Mike Campbell, my colleagues here in London can tell you, there were tremendous debates within our own Agency. The debate went like this - DEA as you all know, probably know, are meant to work on major international traffickers, we don't work on local retail traffickers. The problem with Crack when it first began was there were no international traffickers. It was a cottage industry, it started out with 25,000 little dope peddlers. How do you make Crack? Any person in this room can make Crack in the next hour and 15 minutes. All you take is some Cocaine, some hot water, a bunsen burner and a baby bottle and in an hour and 15 minutes you guys have Crack. Well the geniuses in New York City didn't have to figure out very long if I buy a kilo of Cocaine for \$18,000 and an hour and 15

minutes later I can sell it for \$70,000 that's what I am going to do. And we started out as a cottage industry in our country with no big dope pedlars, certainly nobody would come to the attention of your Regional or International Squads, started out on the street. By little guys selling, in New York which is not a lot, half pounds and pounds of Cocaine. If we had not, very frankly, the working relationship, we meaning DEA, that we had with the New York City Police. That means that in New York City every Cocaine/Heroin arrest that is made the information goes up the chain to an office that is within my office in Intelligence Division which all information on all arrests is shared by all agencies - that's how we picked up the original trafficking. Well, unfortunately, as you know it didn't take very long for the traffickers to realise we're not going to leave this to individuals and they began to organise and right now Crack is controlled by a large, fairly large number of organisations. Basically of two ethnic backgrounds, number 1 Dominicans and number 2 Jamaicans. Now what is very interesting in New York City the traffic is controlled more by Dominicans than Jamaicans but as you leave New York City the Jamaicans have taken over control of much of the rest of the United States and it is Jamaicans who are in different cities in the country tied back directly to New York City. Now again, I don't have to tell any of you gentlemen this, you have a large number of Jamaicans in this country. Many of whom have relatives and friends in New York and none of whom are very stupid if they are dope peddlers to start with. These guys don't have to be geniuses to realise (a) I don't have to import Crack from the United States. I can go out and buy a baby bottle at a department store and you certainly have water here and you certainly have bunsen burners here. I can make my Crack right here in Great Britain and I can increase my profit if relations are the same, and I think they probably are, by something like 300%

14

and I don't have to worry about getting new customers all the time because remember the numbers I used a few minutes ago. Three out of the four of the guys that I sell Crack to three times are coming back to me, they're locked in, they're a guaranteed customer and that's what happened in our country because, unfortunately, we started out with an industry of 25,000 cottage little dope peddlers, little guys who were selling little amounts. They began to organise and it is now controlled internationally. It is controlled again basically, by Dominicans and Jamaicans and the sizes of the organisations are very large. The largest organisation we have taken down, we have dismantled in New York was a group called Baseballs. The reason we called it that is they sell Crack now in New York, it is actually branded like you would go to the store and buy one brand of tea or another. In New York we put brand names on our Crack vials. The brandname was Basedballs. We took down an organisation that was selling approximately 20,000 vials a day, that's 20,000 \$10 vials per day and it was an organisation of Dominicans and Jamaicans. That's the level of organisations we now see. We are basically saturated with Crack, the problem is continuing to grow, the violence level has been continuing to grow and the response of law enforcement, although we are trying to do something, I will tell you the following and I know there are no news media people in here so I can say it to you. We haven't made one bit of difference. The New York City Police Department has 29,000 police officers, about the same as the Metropolitan Police of London. When Crack first started they had about 600 officers working full time on drugs. The New York City Police Department now has 2700 full time drug officers, just in New York City. Last year the New York City Police Department and DEA, in New York City, I'm only talking about New York City, made 90,000 drug arrests. Last year in New York City our office, just the Drug

15.
Enforcement Administration in New York City seized 9,000 kilos of Cocaine, just in New York City. Now the next question is did all of those seizures and all of those arrests make one bit of difference and the answer is absolutely not. There is not one single corner in New York where you can't purchase Crack or Cocaine.

Our mistake, in New York, was very simply the following. We didn't see the problem early enough and we didn't get a jump on it and I would tell you there is, what I think, a very reasonable example of the difference between two cities in our country that have. In New York, which supplies Washington DC and Boston Massachusetts, they are both equal distance from New York, 200 miles, they both have large inner city populations, they both have big Cocaine users. Three years ago the Mayor of Boston came to my office, he said I'm worried about Crack, we talked about it, we went up, we trained their police officers, he increased the size of his drug unit, he set up task forces from which information came from the street to the top immediately. They did away with parochialism, they started drug education in school systems and they started community education across the city and today Boston has a very minor Crack problem. They have a problem sure, but a very minor one. At the same time we talked to the people in Washington DC and there answer was - "Don't bother us man we have a PCP problem, we can't worry about this Crack stuff". I don't have to worry about this Crack stuff three years ago, today Derek very rightfully described what is happening in New York City. the topic of conversation every morning on the TV stations is the body count of the night before. for those of us who are old enough to remember it is reminiscent of the Vietnam War where every day we had body counts and unfortunately, in cities like New York very rapidly the body count is becoming a count of police officers.

16.

I no longer allow my agents to go out on the street in anything except undercover work where you can't do it without a bulletproof vest and as you may or may not know, to show you how times have changed, every DEA Agent in the United States is issued a 9mm sidearm, we used to use 38s then the 357. Now we have 9mm 17 shot, Austrian weapon and every DEA Agent, all 3000 Agents are now issued sub machine guns. That is what has happened in our country basically because of Crack and Cocaine, basically over the past three years. Now the only thing I would, and I'm going to shut up quickly because I would probably have about 5 minutes for questions. The only thing that I would tell you gentlemen is the following. I am not standing up here telling you I'm any smarter than any one of you. There are people in this room who I have met and I respect and I think they are as fine a law enforcement officers that I have ever met in the world and I mean that very sincerely. The only thing I would ask you is the following, learn from our mistakes. We have screwed up enough times to write 10,000 books but I would hope all of you don't have to go through the same thing that we went through. don't be like the people in Kansas and Texas and California who said "it can't happen here". I will make a prediction and as you all know, predictions in this business, you've got to be crazy to make them. I will personally guarantee you that 2 years from now you will have a serious Crack problem because as the gentleman before me said, we are so saturated in the United States with Cocaine, there ain't enough noses left to use the Cocaine that's coming in. It's got to go somewhere and as you know where it's coming is right here. Cocaine Hydrochloride and you don't have to be a genius to figure out that at 300% profit why not sell Crack instead of Cocaine and don't fall for that old business of 'its only black guys'. We set up a car seizure programme in New York City in which we seized

vehicles of people coming in to high density areas. We seized 1,000 cars in seven months. 80% of the 1,000 cars were white kids from the nice suburbs coming in to buy Crack and we took their daddys' cars.

Let me finish with one prediction I will make. 3 years ago in 1986 I gave the smartest and stupidist speech I've ever given in my life in the same speech. Now a lot of you guys are speakers you know how difficult that is to do. Imagine being the smartest and the stupidist in the same speech. I started out by saying that Crack in my opinion, was such a dilatorious drug it was going to do one of two things to the United States. It was either going to pull us together as a country and we were finally going to say - enough is enough is enough, lets put aside our parochial differences, who cares about customs, DEA, who cares about NYPD and New York State Police, enough of this garbage, because people are dropping dead in our country and we, as civil servants, owe them the best we can give them, or, Crack was so dilitarious it was going to make us look back on the good old days of 1986 and I've got to tell you in 1986 we thought the sky was falling in. That was the smart thing I said the stupid thing I said was the following. And this was stupid, I said, "Thank god it looks like we're finally pulling together" - this was unfortunately 2 months before the elections in the United States and, of course, right after the elections everything started to pull apart. Let me make this one prediction to you gentlemen. I will guarantee you the following if, hopefully, you are all bright enough to have learned from our lessons, because I mean this most sincerely, if you haven't, if you don't attack this potential problem, and it's more than potential in Western Europe, if you don't attack this potential problem, putting aside differences, and looking at a community national response, that is both law enforcement, education and treatment I will guarantee you

18.

the following. Three years from today, and I hope this happens anyway, your Chairman will invite me back because you will be looking back on the good old days of 1989 and that won't be pleasant

I see by my watch Mr. Chairman I have about 3 minutes left, is there anyone who has a question, an argument, a debate

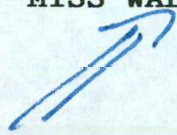
R E S T R I C T E D

FROM: ROBERT CULPIN
DATE: 4 May 1989
Extn: 4419

cc. Culpin
Gieve.
Adviser.

MISS WALLACE

cc Mr Gieve
Mr Pickford
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie
Mr Call



I do rather agree!
The CX seemed so set on it
at the last speech meeting that
I didn't think it worth pressing.

DRUGS SEIZURES

I think your squib reads very well, and makes the best of Mr Unwin's material; but I also think it could look a bit like a parody of the Chancellor.

2. First, there is yet another all-time high. This time it's monthly drugs seizures. They are no doubt a record because drug imports are a record. That's not good news, it's bad.

3. Second, there is a ringing claim that drug smugglers are "no match" for Customs. That is surely over the top. Some get caught, some don't. To suggest we've licked the problem is ridiculous; and for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do it is mildly demeaning.

our internal estimate is that 90% does

4. If you take out the hyperbole, you are left with two main things. First, there is the Chancellor congratulating his staff. That's well worth while, but doesn't need a national press release. The Chancellor could send Mr Unwin a letter for publication in the Customs house journal.

not get caught, tho. we might deter some.

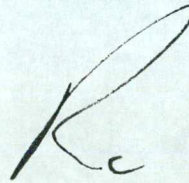
1477

5. Second, there is the Chancellor becoming Mr Drugs. But if he advertises rising drug seizures as a success story, would he accept that rising crime statistics are a Government failure? And if he takes public credit for drug seizures, will he accept public blame the next time Customs put sniffer dogs onto some MEP's granny, or some clown in the Revenue hounds a postman for tax on tips, or Sir Anthony Battishill sends storm troopers to check whether some innocent has declared her nanny?

6. I am usually in favour of taking credit for anything, and I agree, of course, that it is good news that Customs are on the ball (if they are). I don't pretend that a handout in the Chancellor's name would do much harm. But I think it is slightly tacky. And I think that, on the whole, he gains more than he loses by keeping just a little distance from the day-to-day operations of the Revenue Departments.

Yes.

7. So I should be inclined to leave this to others.



ROBERT CULPIN

R E S T R I C T E D

Miss Wallace

as before
+ HB
R. Culpin

FROM: ROBERT CULPIN

DATE: 4 May 1989

Extn: 4419

There are dangers here & X is
clearly over the top. My feeling is

MISS WALLACE think there is no harm

cc

Mr Gieve
Mr Pickford
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrrie
Mr Call

in this paragraph it is seen as
mainly a message of congratulations to
staff which is being used by CSE

to draw attention to their record -
perhaps by including it in the press release.
DRUGS SEIZURES

I have suggested some
amendments to the draft

JC

I think your squib reads very well, and makes the best of
Mr Unwin's material; but I also think it could look a bit
like a parody of the Chancellor.

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main things. First, there is the Chancellor congratulating
his staff. That's well worth while, but doesn't need a
national press release. The Chancellor could send Mr Unwin a
letter for publication in the Customs house journal.

...welcoming the news the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP commented: *State he follow message to the Chairman of HM Customs → Excise!*

"Today's haul is an impressive example of the success ^[we are now seeing in the battle against drugs, thanks to the skill and efforts] of Customs Investigation officers. In fact ~~we~~ you have had an outstanding series of successes in this area: the ^{[latest] figures [for March] show that it was Customs' most successful month ever,} ^{[Min] Jew} ^{by just} with seizures of drugs valued at £60 million. In the course of these operations 116 people were arrested and charged with drugs offences. And these figures exclude the drugs seized and people arrested as far away as Madrid, Brussels and New York, following international operations in which British Customs officers participated.

The fight against drugs ^{unending.} ~~has never been easy.~~ And the stories behind these seizures reveal the drug traffickers' ^{manipulated} ~~ever more ingenious~~ attempts to evade detection - 2 tonnes of cannabis driven across Europe in a truck-load of balsawood; 20 kilogrammes of cocaine hidden in a diplomatic bag; or more than 2 tonnes of cannabis concealed in a concrete block. ^{But} ~~the good news is that the growing ingenuity of the criminals is no match for the professionalism and dedication of Customs staff at ports and airports and in their investigation.~~ ^{you} ~~division,~~ ^{you} ~~their efforts, and the results they have yielded, deserve our highest praise."~~ ^{Evil?} ^{our} ^{main protection against this trade is your the} ^{you show best}

I am ~~sure~~ you appreciate you in this latest success and assure you that your sterling work is appreciated both throughout the Government."

The vital work you officers do

* so does AGT
on 2nd thought



Go ahead,
as a manager
to change of laws,
release of fun.
I have shift
the J.

DRUGS SEIZURES

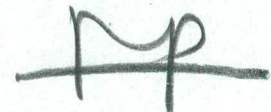
Ch/

A classic note from Robert behind. He obviously thinks the whole idea misbegotten.* John Grieve disagrees and has suggested some changes to tone down the more wilder excesses of my draft. In general I agree with John's changes - except I think it odd to turn it into letter format. Why would you be reporting Customs' successes to Customs?

What's your view?

MPW 8/5

R E S T R I C T E D



FROM: ROBERT CULPIN

DATE: 4 May 1989

Extn: 4419

MISS WALLACE

cc

Mr Gieve
Mr Pickford
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie
Mr Call**DRUGS SEIZURES**

I think your squib reads very well, and makes the best of Mr Unwin's material; but I also think it could look a bit like a parody of the Chancellor.

2. First, there is yet another all-time high. This time it's monthly drugs seizures. They are no doubt a record because drug imports are a record. That's not good news, it's bad.

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4. If you take out the hyperbole, you are left with two main things. First, there is the Chancellor congratulating his staff. That's well worth while, but doesn't need a national press release. The Chancellor could send Mr Unwin a letter for publication in the Customs house journal.

5. Second, there is the Chancellor becoming Mr Drugs. But if he advertises rising drug seizures as a success story, would he accept that rising crime statistics are a Government failure? And if he takes public credit for drug seizures, will he accept public blame the next time Customs put sniffer dogs onto some MEP's granny, or some clown in the Revenue hounds a postman for tax on tips, or Sir Anthony Battishill sends storm troopers to check whether some innocent has declared her nanny?

6. I am usually in favour of taking credit for anything, and I agree, of course, that it is good news that Customs are on the ball (if they are). I don't pretend that a handout in the Chancellor's name would do much harm. But I think it is slightly tacky. And I think that, on the whole, he gains more than he loses by keeping just a little distance from the day-to-day operations of the Revenue Departments.

7. So I should be inclined to leave this to others.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'R' followed by a smaller lowercase 'c'.

ROBERT CULPIN



FROM: J M G TAYLOR

DATE: 9 May 1989

23/5

by [signature]

PS/ECONOMIC SECRETARY

cc Mr Unwin - C&E

THE DRUG THREAT

The Chancellor has seen Mr Unwin's note of 4 May, and the attached note by Mr Tweddle covering a recent speech by the Head of the Drug Enforcement Agency in New York.

2. The Chancellor found the speech interesting - and terrifying. He has noted (page 15 of the speech) the contrast between the experiences of Boston and Washington. He has asked how our own UK anti-drug efforts are co-ordinated inter-departmentally. I should be most grateful if Mr Unwin could arrange for a short note to be provided.

[Signature]

J M G TAYLOR

C.C. PS/Chancellor.

pm



Media Topics

PRESS & INFORMATION OFFICE

OPERATION WATERSKI II

As part of a long term drugs smuggling investigation, Customs officers were keeping watch on a pub in Colchester last night. They attempted to arrest a man, who made off in a blue van. He was followed to Clacton, where the officers rammed his van. Unfortunately he made off on foot and escaped. In follow-up operations five people have been arrested. Three hundred kilos of cannabis resin, worth £1m have been seized from the van.

Police with tracker dogs were today assisting us in the search for the man in the van. A light aircraft believed to be involved has been located.

Spoke to

Jane Andrews:

(this was considered)
as a vehicle for
C/X PN, but
rejected. Looking
for a better one

Graeme Hammond 1/5 89

Attn:

PS Economic Secretary

PS Chairman

PS Director Personnel



FROM: MISS M P WALLACE

DATE: 12 May 1989

MR UNWIN - C&E

cc PS/Economic Secretary
Mr Culpin
Mr Gieve
Mrs Chaplin
Mr Tyrie
Mr CallPS/C&E
Mrs Strachan - C&E
Mr Craggs - C&E
Mr Nash - C&E
Mr Tweddle - C&E
Mr Teller - C&E
Mr Hammond - C&E**RECENT DRUGS SEIZURES**

The Chancellor was most grateful for your minute of 18 April, enclosing a speaking note on Customs' recent successes in the fight against drugs.

2. As there is no particularly suitable opportunity to use this material in the Chancellor's speech programme over the next few months, he thinks that the best way forward would be for Customs to press release a congratulatory message from him on the occasion of the next major drugs seizure. I attach the draft of the message he has in mind.

3. He would be grateful if you could alert him - and the Press Office here in the Treasury - when a suitable opportunity next arises.

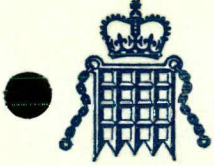
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'mpw'.

MOIRA WALLACE

...welcoming the news, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP, sent the following message to the Chairman of HM Customs and Excise:

"Today's haul is an impressive example of the success of Customs Investigation Officers. In fact you have had an outstanding series of successes in this area; the [latest] figures show that [March] saw Customs' biggest haul ever, with seizures of drugs valued at £60 million. In the course of those operations 116 people were arrested and charged with drugs offences. And these figures exclude the drugs seized and people arrested as far away as Madrid, Brussels and New York, following international operations in which British Customs officers participated.

The fight against drugs is unending. And the stories behind these seizures reveal the drug traffickers' manifold attempts to evade detection - 2 tonnes of cannabis driven across Europe in a truck-load of balsawood; 20 kilogrammes of cocaine hidden in a diplomatic bag; or more than 2 tonnes of cannabis concealed in a concrete block. Our main protection against this evil trade is the professionalism and dedication you show both at the ports and airports and in investigation. I congratulate you on this latest success and assure you that the vital work your officers do is greatly appreciated throughout the Government."



RESTRICTED

Board Room
H M Customs and Excise
New King's Beam House
22 Upper Ground
London SE1 9PJ
Telephone: 01-620 1313

Oh,
I am sure 'X' (para
5) is right. Agree Mr U.
shld. discuss further with Sir C Whitmore?

FROM : THE CHAIRMAN

DATE : 18 May 1989

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

22/5
Agreed!

THE DRUG THREAT

After reading the terrifying speech on crack by the Head of the Drug Enforcement Agency in New York that I circulated recently you asked how our anti-drug effort is co-ordinated inter-departmentally.

2. The arrangements, in brief, are as follows. The Home Office have the overall policy lead responsibility and co-ordination at Ministerial level takes place in the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs (MGMD), chaired by Douglas Hogg. This reports to 'H' Committee. In addition to the Home Office and ourselves, there is mixed Ministerial/Official representation from FCO, ODA, Treasury, DES, the Department of Health and from the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Offices.

cc Economic Secretary

Mrs Strachan
Mr Jefferson Smith
Mr Nash
Mr Walton
Mr Tweddle

RESTRICTED

3. At official level a Home Office group called the Drugs Intelligence Steering Group (DISG), chaired by a Home Office Deputy Secretary, co-ordinates enforcement activities. Again, we and the major departments are represented on it, together with senior Police officers and representatives of the National Drugs Intelligence Unit (NDIU). The latter, which is physically located at New Scotland Yard, is headed by a former Chief Constable, and staffed by Police and Customs Officers. It ensures inter alia that intelligence on drugs gathered from any source is available to both services. As part of the process of maintaining better working relations with the police I have given the NDIU direct access to our Intelligence Computer Network (CEDRIC).


4. The view of my people directly involved is that, although there is an occasional hiccup (like the failure of the Home Office to consult us on the Home Secretary's ODE paper the other week), the co-ordination arrangements work pretty well. Beneath the formal structures mentioned above there is now a well established network of direct contacts between staff at "working" level, and the Home Office have been a good deal better in recent weeks at ensuring that our views on drugs and frontier controls are taken properly into account.

X

5. I am beginning to wonder, however, whether, in view of the enormity of the crack threat, the arrangements ought to be stepped up a bit - perhaps, for example, at the top of the interdepartmental structure to a higher Ministerial level. If the American experience shows anything, it is that rapid and decisive action on a wide range of fronts - not just on the matter of frontier controls - is essential if we are to avoid anything similar to the New York disaster here.

RESTRICTED

6. I have already raised this with Clive Whitmore and suggested that we should have a talk with some of our other colleagues. Subject to your views, perhaps I could report back to you when we have done so.



J B UNWIN



Board Room
 H M Customs and Excise
 New King's Beam House
 22 Upper Ground
 London SE1 9PJ
 Telephone: 01-620 1313

MP

FROM : THE CHAIRMAN

DATE : 18 May 1989

Miss M Wallace

Ch/ PS/CTE tells me, confidentially, that something quite big is expected shortly. When that happens, they wd try to get in touch with us to get the OK for the press release. But the "window" for the press release is quite short

RECENT DRUGS SEIZURES

Many thanks for your minute of 12 May. I am very grateful for the Chancellor's suggestion for linking a message to the next major drugs seizure. On present form, it may be a few weeks before we have a really suitable occasion but I will let you know as soon as the right opportunity arises. We can then update and adjust the accompanying prose as appropriate.

legally they cannot do it once the miscreants have been charged (sub judice). So in practice they usually press release within a few hours. May they go ahead without consulting us, if for some reason that is impossible? I shd have thought yes.

JUN

J B UNWIN

OK

mpw

cc PS/Economic Secretary
 Mr Gieve

Mr Nash
 Mr Tweddle
 Mr Hammond



FROM: J M G TAYLOR

DATE: 24 May 1989

PWP

MR UNWIN - C&E

cc PS/Economic Secretary

Mr Jefferson Smith - C&E
Mr Nash - C&E
Mrs Strachan - C&E
Mr Walton - C&E
Mr Tweddle - C&E

THE DRUG THREAT

The Chancellor was grateful for your note of 18 May.

2. He is content for you to proceed as you propose.

JMG

J M G TAYLOR



~~*~~
OK
in short!

DRUGS PRESS RELEASE

Ch/

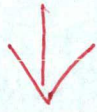
Mantus after we agreed a text, customs have finally come up with a peg to hang it on. Robert is even more anti doing this than he was at first, because ^① it may only lend fuel to the fire of C+E's survey bids (+15½% running costs) ^②. Also he thinks since newspapers still full of reshuffle gossip this will get drowned / look attention-seeking. Frankly I'm not keen either. If you wanted to decline you could plead reason ^②. If you want them to go ahead they need approval ASAP. MPW.

Pl. Phone → ^{KBT} Graham Hammond 5467.

Re. This

7 3913.

25/7/89.



Miss M Wallace
APS Chancellor of the Exchequer

PS Economic Secretary
PS Chairman
PS Director Outfield
PS Director Customs
Mr Tweddle
Chief Inv Off
Mr Brown CDE
Mr Gieve
HMT Press Office

pl walk to Culpin
Gieve.

HM CUSTOMS COCAINE SEIZURE - CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

HM Customs and Excise investigators have seized 10 kilogrammes of cocaine, worth £1.7 million, from a motor yacht at Ramsgate, in a combined, two-month long, targeted operation with the French Customs Service, the British Police and HMCC Valiant, one of the new HM Customs fast patrol boats.

The operation is still in progress and there will be no publicity until all those suspected are under arrest. It is anticipated that this will be after 7 pm today.

However, the case provides a good opportunity to issue the message of congratulations from the Chancellor to the Department, as outlined in your minute of 12 May to Mr Unwin.

The following is a revised draft, which takes account of recent developments. Subject to the Chancellor's agreement, the statement could be released by the HM Customs Duty Press Officer as soon as the operation is secure, this evening or tomorrow.

"Today's haul is an impressive example of the success of HM Customs and Excise and of the results that can be achieved through close co-operation with the ~~British~~ police and foreign law enforcement agencies.

"In fact, HM Customs and Excise have had an outstanding series of successes. The latest figures show that, so far this year, you have seized almost as much cocaine and heroin as in as in the whole of last year.

"March saw Customs biggest drugs haul, with seizures valued at more than £60 millions.

"These figures exclude the drugs seized and smugglers arrested as far away as Lisbon, Pakistan and New York, following international operations in which HM Customs have played a leading role.

As letter from Ch to B.U.

"The fight against drugs is unending. The stories behind these seizures reveal the smugglers' manifold attempts to evade detection - two tonnes of cannabis and 150 kilogrammes of cocaine hidden in a container of balsawood; 20 kilogrammes of cocaine hidden in a diplomatic bag; more than two tonnes of cannabis concealed in a concrete block and 46 kilogrammes of heroin in a Turkish lorry.

"Our main protection against this evil trade is the professionalism you show both at ports and airports, at sea and in investigation.

"I congratulate you on this latest success and assure you that the vital work your officers do is greatly appreciated throughout Government."

I should be grateful if approval and/or any revisions could be advised to the Chief Press Officer, HM Customs and Excise, Howard Sutton, on 0323 440412, or the Duty Press Officer, on 0474 356161.

25 July 1989

Graeme Hammond
Head on Information
HM Customs and Excise

01 865 5467

Hammond

06284 74489



FROM: MISS M P WALLACE

DATE: 26 July 1989

MR G HAMMOND - Customs & Excise

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Paymaster General
PS/Economic Secretary
Mr Culpin
Mr Gieve
Mrs Chaplin

PS/C&E

CUSTOMS COCAINE SEIZURE: PRESS RELEASE

... The Chancellor has seen your minute of 25 July (attached). He is content for you to issue your revised draft, in the form of a message from him to the Chairman, once the operation is complete, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) in paragraph 1, delete "British";
- (ii) in paragraph 2, delete "HM" before "Customs and Excise";
- (iii) and delete the entire fifth paragraph ("The fight against drugs is unending ... etc.")

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M P Wallace'.

MOIRA WALLACE