



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1980

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Blaker's letter of 15 April to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster about the provision of Country Assessment Papers (CAP) to the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Channon's letter of 21 April.

She agrees that it would be desirable in principle to make CAPs available to the Select Committee. On the other hand some existing CAPs contain material which renders them unsuitable for dissemination outside the Service. She thinks that the right course might be to agree to make CAPs available to the Select Committee as and when they are revised. Thereafter CAPs available to the Select Committee should be no different from those used in the Service, so that there are no problems of censored documents. Where there is a request for early production of a CAP, ahead of its next normal revision, it may be necessary to revise the CAP ad hoc in order to make it possible to comply with the request, if it contains sensitive material.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of Cabinet and Mr. Channon and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

NJS

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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