

CONFIDENTIAL

TREAT LIKE "LIMITED CIRCULATION ANNEX"



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 August 1980

*Dear Willie;*

I mentioned in Cabinet on 7 February that I had agreed that a review of recent unauthorised leaks of Government information and of our methods of dealing with them should be undertaken. That review is now complete, and I attach a copy of the report.

Its conclusions are not particularly far-reaching, but taken as a whole they should, if rigorously implemented, give some hope of significant improvement at little administrative cost. The only recommendation about which I had reservations is that which suggests that there should be a Ministerial statement (paragraph 27). I have no doubt that it would be inappropriate for anyone other than a Minister to make such a statement, but on balance I feel that, despite the attractions, such a statement would be regarded by the press and the media as provocative and I have therefore decided against it.

I have invited Sir Ian Bancroft to begin implementation of the other recommendations, and he will shortly be writing to those Permanent Secretaries in charge of Departments who participated in the review.

For obvious reasons, I am particularly anxious that the report should not be copied further in Departments and that its circulation should be kept to the absolute minimum. I should be grateful, therefore, if you could ensure that it is treated as if it were a Limited Circulation Annex to Cabinet Conclusions.

/I am

CONFIDENTIAL

TREAT LIKE "LIMITED CIRCULATION ANNEX"