

We discussed with Mike



Prime Minister. 1.  
A first working draft for WRVS, following your talk with Lady Pike. It is essentially a statement of philosophy, not a vehicle for new policy.

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

M Pattison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

Can I have the personal notes from Lady Pike. - Now attached MJP

Content to work on this basis?  
30 December 1980  
Is there anyone else you would wish to consult?  
MJP 31/11

Dear Mike,

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO WRVS: 19 JANUARY 1981

Following the talk which officials from here and from the Home Office had with you on 19 December (which they found very useful), my Secretary of State has seen and given broad approval to the enclosed first working draft of the Prime Minister's speech. He has not attempted at this stage to redraft or to work it up in any way. He appreciates that the Prime Minister will wish to work carefully on the speech, and he would be happy to provide additional material, or to prepare a further draft after the Prime Minister has considered the general thrust of the present one.

The Secretary of State entirely agrees with the Prime Minister's view that the speech is an occasion to tackle - in an appropriately broad way - the Government's general strategy towards the personal social services, showing how the statutory and voluntary sectors can and should work together, and seeing the further development of a vigorous and practically-minded voluntary sector in social care as a major goal for the 1980s, reflecting and complementing the Government's economic strategy. At the same time, he sees this as a theme to be put across with care, because some parts of the voluntary sector (including some organisations which provide valuable service) are sensitive to being treated as substitutes for statutory provision, and are quite capable of trying to controvert any presentation of the voluntary movement which they consider misleading.

One theme that the Secretary of State has deliberately excluded from the material is the possibility of using the unemployed (and particularly the young unemployed) in social services voluntary activities. As you know, this is among the aspects of unemployment that the CPRS is to study, and there is bound to be further discussion of it between Ministers. In the meantime, it is a theme that is bound to arouse great controversy if given an airing without full preparation - and the WRVS is not perhaps a suitable audience for it.

E.R.

I enclose also a background note on the WRVS prepared by the Home Office (which gives the WRVS its substantial Government grant). I am sure that the Home Office would be able to provide any further background material that you might need, such as notes on the individuals the Prime Minister is likely to meet.

I assume that you will liaise directly with Lady Pike over the practical arrangements for the visit.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosures to John Halliday (Home Office), Godfrey Robson (Scottish Office), John Craig (Welsh Office) and Roy Harrington (Northern Ireland Office).

*You ever*  
*DM*

D BRERETON  
Private Secretary

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