

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

14 6



PRIME MINISTER

GREEN PAPER ON TRADE UNION IMMUNITIES

*Returned on receipt of
E (50) 148 - revised version*

I have prepared the attached Green Paper on Trade Union Immunities to provide the basis for an informed and wide-ranging debate of the whole subject. That this is what industry wants was confirmed at last week's CBI Conference, where the resolution endorsing the reforms in the Employment Act but recommending that "decisions should not be taken on additional changes in employment law before there has been time for a proper and considered judgement on the need and scope for further reform" was carried by a considerable majority. That is why I have offered a consultative period until 30 June which the CBI have already told me informally they consider very tight.

So that we may meet our undertaking to produce the Green Paper by the end of the year, I shall wish to publish it in the third week in December. This means that any changes that colleagues may wish to suggest should reach me by Friday 5 December.

I am sending copies of this minute and of the text of the Green Paper to the members of E, the Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the Secretary of State for Social Services and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JP

17 November 1980