

CONFIDENTIAL

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Ref. A08752

MR. WHITMORE

Mr Mount.
What do you think?
Let us have a word.
RMW
18th

Mr. Wasserman has shown me a copy of Mr. Mount's note "Renewing the Values of Society". I think that it is very interesting, and has a lot of good ideas. The question is how to get them launched with best hope of success.

2. My fear is that, if the note goes straight to Ministers, they will all come to a meeting equipped with Departmental briefs full of cold water and faint praise. There are two things we might do to reduce that danger.

3. First, it might be worth spending a bit more time on the outline of the proposals, to make them as proof as possible against Departmental cold water and faint praise. We might do that by taking a couple of weeks in which the proposals could be more fully discussed than I gather they have been with Mr. Wasserman, and perhaps at a meeting which the Prime Minister might have with Mr. Sparrow, Mr. Mount, Mr. Wasserman and me.

4. Secondly, we might then circulate them to Ministers under cover of a note by the Prime Minister which gave them whatever degree of political backing and impetus she wanted to give them, and which made proposals for carrying forward the work on them. We could discuss how that could best be done. Mr. Mount may want to do it himself, but if he does he will not have too much time for other work. An alternative would be to get one or two people in the CPRS (or separate from the CPRS in the Cabinet Office) who would be responsible, in co-operation and consultation with Mr. Mount, and with the many Departments affected, for working the proposals up.

5. We should have to decide how that should be related to the unit to work up Mr. Wasserman's ideas (about which I minuted the Prime Minister on 19th March), if the Prime Minister decided to proceed with that.

6. Perhaps you and I could discuss this with Mr. Mount and Mr. Wasserman.


ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18th June, 1982

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