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12 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1

*With the Compliments
of the
Chief Whip*

PRIME MINISTER
Civil Defence comes to
OO next week
MIA 9/11.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

9 May 1980

I gather your PPS was present at the joint meeting of the Home Affairs and Defence Committees on Wednesday 7 May, when John Belstead spoke about Civil Defence. I am, of course, aware of the forthcoming Paper on these matters, but I am seriously concerned that the Party is getting itself very steamed up about the inadequacies of Civil Defence in the UK. You may recall that I spoke to the Prime Minister about this several weeks ago when you and I met her with Peter Thorneycroft. I have not seen a copy of the Paper which we shall be publishing, but I get the impression that it may cause a good deal of trouble by its inadequacy. My fear is that if we are not seen to be taking the problem sufficiently seriously at this stage, the Party may well force us into expenditure on a very much larger scale in the future, than would satisfy them now.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Francis Pym and Geoffrey Howe.

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
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