

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. SCHOLAR

c. Mr. Hoskyns ^{p.a.}

EVIDENCE FOR THE MEGAW INQUIRY

The Prime Minister will have received two more pieces of draft evidence for the Megaw Inquiry - the Attorney General's proposed piece about salaries in the legal Civil Service, and the Chancellor of the Duchy's paper on Discipline and Dismissals. The latter has been worked over among officials and the Chancellor is being advised to consent to it; when he has done so, you could signify the Prime Minister's consent - it is a factual and non-controversial paper.

The Attorney's paper, however, raises difficulties. To a greater extent than other departmental evidence, this is a piece of transparent special pleading on behalf of his Department, and it does not sit easily with the more general evidence the Government has submitted. The Chancellor is being advised to ask the Attorney to make some substantial amendments, in order to down-play the comparability content of his evidence, not least because if it goes in it will set a precedent for other groups, such as the medical Civil Service, which those groups and their unions will not be slow to exploit. I think the Prime Minister should leave this to be negotiated between the Chancellor and the Attorney, and hold herself ready to arbitrate between the two if necessary.

J.

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