

16 June 1982

MR WHITMORE

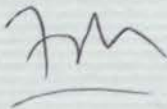
MISC 79 AND H

We spoke.

I realise that my attendance at these committees would be unusual and raises something of a precedent. But I think that the issue is worth pursuing for the following reasons:

- (a) The Home Secretary, as Chairman of both Committees, invited me to attend.
- (b) The subjects to be covered, particularly in MISC 79, are of crucial importance for the structure of the government.
- (c) It is very much the function of the Policy Unit to be aware of Ministerial thinking and of the detailed arguments being put at an early stage in the formulation of policy.
- (c) If asked to speak, I think I am reasonably capable of making it clear that I would not be speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister, but would be trying to elucidate the issues in order to inform her on them. And if remaining silent, I think my attendance would be valuable nonetheless.

As you said, the issue will need to be discussed with Sir Robert Armstrong and ultimately with the Prime Minister.



FERDINAND MOUNT