

PRIME MINISTER

Your meeting with Young Conservatives

Thursday, 6th December : 6.00 to 7.00 pm

1. I propose the usual format of:-

- the obligatory photograph;
- circulating over drinks to break the ice for about fifteen to twenty minutes;
- followed by a general discussion.

2. Also present at the meeting will be:-

- Hal Millar - the Party vice chairman responsible
- John Patten - because the YCs are likely to raise drug misuse as they have recently produced an interim report on the subject.

3. I attach with this note:-

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| List of those attending                               | Flag A |
| Background note on YCs                                | Flag B |
| Summary of Government policy and action on drug abuse | Flag C |
| The YC Report on Drug Abuse                           | Flag D |

(I draw your attention to the one page summary at the front of Flag D.)

SS

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

5.12.84

A

LIST OF THOSE ATTENDING

National Officers:-

Chairman

John Guthrie

Vice-Chairmen

[Angela Hills NOT PRESENT]  
Jeff Green  
Richard Fuller  
Carl Ward

Area Chairmen:-

Greater London

Martine Kushner

Northern

[Geoff McPherson NOT PRESENT]

North West

Prue Hopley

Yorkshire

Martin Woodruffe

East Midlands

Sally Marshall

West Midlands

Mike Jones

Eastern

Jeanette Green

South East

Tim Butcher

Wessex

Sean Jeffreys

Western

Jeff Horswell

Wales

Martyn Holland

Scotland

Jackson Carlaw

National Organising Secretary:-

Mark Worrall

plus

Tim Cowell - Deputy Central Office Agent (Eastern Area)  
formerly Assistant Director (Youth) at CCO

Mr. Roy Morton - Photographer from the Keystone Press  
Agency.

BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE YOUNG CONSERVATIVES

The YC movement is experiencing a modest revival. New branches have been established and the average age of members has fallen as shown by the younger speakers at the Party Conference.

The Summer School at Manchester University was attended by over 110 younger members who were given training in campaigning and organisational techniques.

A new range of publicity materials has been produced (using the theme 'Action for Tomorrow') on drug abuse, jobs and recruitment.

Study groups have been established to consider 'Drug Abuse', 'Welfare Benefits' and 'Ecology'. The report from the Drug Abuse Group was published in time for the Party Conference. A fringe meeting was held with great media interest with an address given by pop personality Pete Townsend, a reformed heroin addict.

## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ON DRUG MISUSE

● Government's strategy in the fight against drug misuse involves simultaneous action on five main fronts:

- improving prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
- reducing supplies from abroad
- tightening controls on drugs produced and prescribed in the UK
- making policing even more effective
- strengthening deterrence

An interdepartmental Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs has been established to review, develop and oversee the implementation of this strategy. The Group meets regularly and is giving the highest priority to reviewing prevention and enforcement policies.

The following is a brief summary of the action taken by the Government to combat drug misuse.

- The establishment of a central fund of £7 million over 3 years for projects providing services for drug misusers;
- £5 million more to be committed to expand efforts in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- A circular to Health Authorities asking them to report by December on the prevalence of drug misuse in their areas and their plans for urgent action to tackle it;
- A major education and prevention campaign to be launched, directed at parents and young people;
- Guidelines on good clinical practice in the treatment of drug dependence disseminated to the medical profession;

- £1 million pledged to the UN Fund for Drug Abuse to help the Pakistan Government eradicate opium poppy cultivation;
- Temporary directions are used to stop doctors prescribing while under examination for having prescribed irresponsibly;
- A further 60 Customs staff recruited in 1984 with 100 new Customs posts <sup>to be</sup> provided in 1985 to combat drug smuggling;
- Dipipanone added to the same control category as heroin and cocaine;
- Barbiturates are included, within the scope of the Misuse of Drugs Act;
- Specialised drugs units set up in all police forces in England and Wales;
- Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary has written to Chief Constables to stress the priority they are expected to give to tackling drug misuse;
- Parole for drug traffickers sentenced to more than 5 years imprisonment now severely restricted;
- The introduction of legislation in this Parliamentary session to deprive criminals, including drug traffickers, of the proceeds of their crimes;
- Legislation to be introduced in this Parliament to increase the maximum penalty for trafficking in Class A drugs to life imprisonment.

DHSS briefing

November 1984

## SOLVENT MISUSE

### Background note

The Government's policy, supported by widespread consultations, is to help parents and the relevant services use existing skills, resources and powers to co-operate more effectively to discourage the habit of solvent misuse. Measures taken include the funding of a post at the National Children's Bureau to collate and disseminate good practice, the production of training materials for professionals, the preparation of a leaflet for parents, teachers and others, the commissioning of research, and facilitating the issue of guidelines on voluntary restraint on retail sales. The Home Secretary has issued guidance to the police and has announced support in principle for the creation of an offence in England and Wales of knowingly selling substances to under 16s when they are likely to be inhaled to achieve intoxication. Neville Trotter is expected to introduce a Private Member's Bill shortly.

Research indicates 80 solvent-related deaths in 1983, and 60 in 1982. Most of those who die are teenage boys. For comparison purposes, 1325 young people aged between 10 and 19 were killed in road accidents in 1982.

Young Conservatives Interim Report on Drug Misuse

Action is already under way on most of the Report's recommendations (see list of recent initiatives), including additional resources, more education and training, action against excessive prescribing, examination of profits of drug companies, (eg proposals have recently been announced to limit the range of tranquillisers and sedatives available on the NHS), better policing and deterrence etc.

Royal Commission

The Report's conclusion is that a Royal Commission would be the most effective way of achieving a full survey covering all aspects of drug misuse.

The suggested line to take is that this would not really be a very profitable way to proceed. Appointing a Royal Commission would simply lead to delay. We already have the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, an independent body which has recently produced important reports on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. There is also the inter-departmental Ministerial Group chaired by David Mellor which is currently reviewing the situation with all urgency.

Government financed central body on solvent misuse

The Interim Report recommends the establishment of a Government financed central body to collate information and develop policy on solvent misuse. The suggested line to take is that setting up a new quango for this purpose is not necessary. An information/development post at the National Children's Bureau is funded to provide a focus for the voluntary sector in the field of solvent misuse.

Aversive additives

Line to take

The introduction - as also suggested in the Report - of aversive additives to the very large number of products containing solvents and other volatile substances would result in the products being repugnant to the overwhelming majority of legitimate users of the products.