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cc Prof. Gilhite

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 December 1985

Dear Stephen,

ROSKILL REPORT

My letter of 18 December to John Mogg commissioned urgent consideration of the recommendations of the Roskill Report. The Prime Minister has asked that in taking this forward the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department should work closely with the interdepartmental group on fraud chaired by Sir Peter Middleton.

I am copying this letter to John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Rachel Lomax (H.M. Treasury), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office H.M. Treasury), Henry Steel (Law Officer's Department), Kieran Murphy (H.M. Treasury), Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

David.

DAVID NORGROVE

Stephen Boys Smith Esq.
Home Office

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From: J B UNWIN
19 December 1985

MR NORGROVE

FRAUD

The Prime Minister's meeting yesterday agreed that the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary should produce a paper for consideration by the Group on around 8 or 9 January setting out their initial assessment of the Roskill recommendations. Your minute on yesterday's meeting will no doubt commission this.

2. One important purpose of the next meeting will be to settle what can/should be said when Roskill is published. The provisional game plan was that this should be on 13 or 14 January, with the Second Reading of the Financial Services Bill postponed until 15 January, and that at the minimum the Government should give a commitment to legislate in the next session to implement Roskill (subject to a limited period of consultation on its recommendations) and that the necessary increased resources would be provided. It may be, however, that the report by the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary could enable ^{some} decisions to be taken and announced on some recommendations immediately. This will need to be considered at the 8-9 January meeting.

3. There is also an urgent need to get on with detailed consideration at official level of the Roskill recommendations. I mentioned briefly to the Prime Minister the suggestion that Sir Peter Middleton, who is already engaged in these issues, should be asked to take this on. She thought that this was sensible, as did the Chancellor with whom I also had a word afterwards.

4. We could wait until the early January meeting to formalise this. I think, however, that the sooner detailed official consideration gets under way, the better. I suggest, therefore, that you issue instructions on this immediately, either in your record of yesterday's meeting, or separately. DTI officials tell me that they would be content with this (by analogy with the earlier Wass exercise); and in view of their particular responsibilities, and the wide range of Departmental interests involved, I am sure it is right for the Treasury to be in the lead.

J B UNWIN

Cabinet Office