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J. G.
AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

MINISTERIAL CABINET COMMITTEES

Thank you for your minute of 18 June which the Prime Minister has seen.

She agrees that the Home Secretary should be invited to OD whenever matters affecting home defence are under discussion and that he should be given the option of attending if he wishes at other times. Mrs Thatcher is also content with your suggestion that he should see minutes only of the meetings which he attends.

F.R.B.

20 June 1983

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Prime Minister

Are you content with

x/?

FERB

18.6.

MR. BUTLER

FERB

Yes me

Ministerial Cabinet Committees

Thank you for your minute of 16 June conveying the Prime Minister's agreement to the recommendations in my minute of 10 June about Ministerial Cabinet Committees.

The Prime Minister's decision not to include the Home Secretary in the membership of OD creates a difficulty in relation to the Home Secretary's responsibilities for home defence. The Prime Minister has agreed that the Home Secretary should remain chairman of OD(HD) (the sub-committee on home defence), which reflects the fact that the Home Office is the lead Department on all matters pertaining to home defence.

If the Home Secretary is not to be on OD, we shall need to invite him explicitly whenever matters affecting home defence are under discussion; perhaps we could also give him (as we give the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) the option of attending if he wishes at other times. Under this arrangement I would propose that he should see the minutes only of those meetings he chose (or was invited) to attend, rather than the minutes of all meetings as he has requested.

x/

REA

18 June 1983

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