



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 October 1985

Dear Mr. Wright,

Thank you for your letter of 1 October about the recent Seminar at Downing Street to discuss the future of education. The participants in this Seminar were chosen for the contribution they could make to a constructive discussion on a number of educational issues. This does not imply any endorsement by the Government of any particular participant. May I say however, how sorry I am that you should have seen fit to make such a personal attack on an individual. Such attacks can add nothing to the debate on educational standards which we would all like to foster.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

John Wright Esq.

eu

ACE

22/10.

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) Ltd
18 Victoria Park Square
Bethnal Green
London E2 9PB

Registered Office

01-980 4596

1.10.85

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

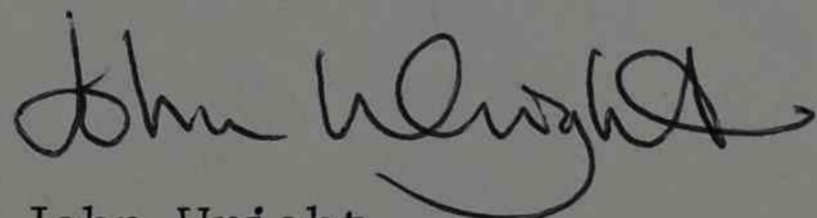
We are writing to express our dismay on hearing that you have invited Mr Ray Honeyford to Downing Street to take part in a discussion on education.

ACE was set up 25 years ago with the aim of persuading schools to become more responsive to the views of parents and children. In much of our day-to-day work we are engaged in supporting parents who have problems with their children's schooling. We inevitably come across many situations in which an exacerbating factor is the breakdown of mutual respect between home and school.

We have studied the article which Mr Ray Honeyford wrote for The Salisbury Review. No-one who has read it could be surprised at the response it provoked from the black community in Bradford. Mr Honeyford seemed to be deliberately expressing his views in hostile and abusive terms. As a result, he has clearly lost the trust of many parents at Drummond School to whom, as a headteacher, he has a particular responsibility; he has also made rational debate on the question of education for a multiracial society more difficult than it has been for a number of years.

Your Government has expressed commitment to the concept of greater accountability of schools to parents. By inviting Mr Honeyford to Downing Street you have cast doubt on the sincerity of this commitment, as well as seeming to endorse the views which Mr Honeyford expressed in The Salisbury Review.

Yours sincerely,



John Wright
(for ACE)

cc Professor John Butterfield, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge;
J M Ashworth, Vice-Chancellor, University of Salford;
Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.