

PRIME MINISTER

ROSKILL REPORT

Lord Roskill, Lord Benson and the Secretary to the Committee are coming in tomorrow at 1030 to discuss the Roskill Report. The list of those attending the meeting is attached.

The Home Office have produced a note to provide an agenda and you have also seen the Policy Unit's note of 17 December.

HANDLING

I suggest you first invite Lord Roskill to introduce his Report. The discussion might then be in two parts: the recommendations themselves (the bulk of the discussion) and handling and presentation of the report.

① On handling and presentation, you will be able to tell Lord Roskill that the Government intends to welcome the Report and to announce their intention to legislate in the light of it in the 1986/87 Session. The Government will not be giving substantive reactions when the Report is published, but at ② least preliminary views would be given during the Debate which will no doubt be needed within a month or so of publication.

④ The Home Office letter discusses the date of publication. They seem to be a bit behind the game: the Lord Chancellor's Department are working towards publication with a Press Conference by Lord Roskill on Friday 10 January. Though this is in the Recess, it is the only way of publishing the Report whilst sticking to the timetable for the Financial Services Bill.

⑤ You will want to emphasise to Lord Roskill and Lord Benson the need for them to promote their Report and to continue to take a close interest, publicly and privately, after the initial flurry. You have also said that you want to point out to Lord Roskill that his discussion of the growth of fraud (paragraph 8.37) is likely to be misinterpreted and will need to be put ⑥ in the right context at his Press Conference when the Report

E. R.

is published. In discussing resources (paragraph 2.71) Lord Roskill should also acknowledge that the Government is taking action to increase them both in quantity and quality.

DW

David Norgrove

30 December 1985

6.18
LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING MEETING AND LUNCH ON TUESDAY, 31 DECEMBER 1985

The Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone

Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, MP

Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Roskill

The Lord Benson

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers, MP

Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP

Mr. Michael Farner

Mr. Brian Unwin

Mr. David Norgrove

Mr. David Hobson

DRAFT SEATING PLAN FOR LUNCH ON TUESDAY, 31 DECEMBER

Sir Patrick Mayhew

Mr. David Hobson

The Lord Benson

Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan

PRIME MINISTER

Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of
St. Marylebone

Rt. Hon. Lord Roskill

Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers

Mr. Michael Farmer

Mr. Brian Unwin

Mr. David Norgrove

ENTRANCE