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Prime Minister

at flap  
Thank you for letting me see a copy of Mrs Whitehouse's letter to you of 21 July expressing disappointment at the outcome of her meeting with David Mellor and myself a fortnight earlier. I had not had an opportunity to read this letter when you raised the matter after Cabinet last week, although I knew of its existence.

I am sorry that Mrs Whitehouse has reacted in this way. Her letter to you contrasts with her letters of thanks to David Mellor and myself.

Mrs Whitehouse's account of our meeting is misleading. I suspect that I started out rather more in sympathy with her point of view than either of my immediate predecessors, but it is hard to sustain this sympathy after experience of her tactics.

I am arranging for you to receive detailed briefing on this subject. Few people are satisfied with the existing law, but experience shows how extraordinarily difficult it is to change it even in minor respects. Mrs Whitehouse underestimates these difficulties, but her own contributions do little to solve them. We shall need to consider carefully what we say on the subject in our Manifesto. Contrary to her assertions I left this point entirely open during our talk.

/You may wish



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You may wish to leave until we have discussed the matter a decision whether you would prefer to see Mrs Whitehouse alone or with me.

*Douglas Hund.*

4 August 1986



HONG KONG AFFAIRS Obscenity Regulation

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