

FILE

CAJ (61)



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 November 1986

AIDS

I mentioned on the telephone this morning that the Prime Minister would welcome a briefing on the above subject: if possible she would like this to be next week following her return from Washington.

BF // Could you please let me know urgently who you think should attend such a meeting. The Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer would seem most appropriate, but I should be grateful for advice on anyone else from DHSS who you think should attend, and in particular if your Secretary of State would like to be present. The aim is to keep the meeting as small as possible and I do not think we would wish to invite representatives from other Departments, although the Lord President would of course be welcome if he wished to attend in view of his Chairmanship of H(A).

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office) for advice on this last point.

P. A. BEARPARK

Miss Jane McKessack,
Department of Health and Social Security

ls

PRIME MINISTER

AIDS

The new sub-committee of 'H' - 'H(A)' meets for the first time next Tuesday.

The attached paper includes the draft of the leaflet which it is proposed should be delivered to every household.

It is not offensive, and as the attached Policy Unit minute points out public opinion is moving very quickly - the issue has been constantly in the news over the last month.

It is now clear that the spread of the disease is going to affect the community generally, and not just sub-groups such as drug addicts and gays.

The formation of 'H(A)' - although not announced officially - has been welcomed but I agree with David Willetts and Bernard Ingham that there would be every advantage in involving you rather more closely, and arranging for you to be briefed by the CMO and Minister of Health.

Content to:

Indicate agreement with the leaflet campaign?

and

Be briefed by CMO and Minister of Health on return from Washington?

Yes
Lord Press Office
a Dr. ISS informed.
PAB
15/11

Yes

PAB

(P.A. BEARPARK)

7 November 1986