



Ref. A085/2515

PRIME MINISTER

The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation and Opening of Parliament
(C(85) 22)

BACKGROUND

Flay A — The draft Queen's Speeches attached to the Lord President's memorandum (C(85) 22) have been prepared by the Queen's Speeches and Legislation Committee (QL) from contributions provided by Departments. The basis is the legislative programme agreed by Cabinet on 6 June (CC(85) 19th Conclusions) with the addition of two Bills to deal with the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking and scientific experiments on animals and the substitution of the Salmon Fisheries Bill for the Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Bill. A complete list of the programme as it now stands is attached at Annex A.

Flay B 2. The present texts of the Speeches reflect comments made by Ministers on earlier drafts and there should be little need for detailed discussion of either the substance or the drafting. Since the Lord President's memorandum was circulated, the Lord Chancellor has suggested that a reference to the earthquake in Mexico might be inserted in the Prorogation Speech. The Secretary of State for Scotland has pointed out a number of changes which need to be made in paragraphs 18, 21 and 22 of the Opening Speech to make it clearer that those changes in the law will apply to England and Wales only. These points can be taken on board by the Secretary of the Cabinet, together with any other points of drafting which arise in discussion. There are no outstanding substantive issues.



HANDLING

3. You will wish to ask the Lord President to introduce his memorandum. You may then find it convenient to proceed first with discussion of the Prorogation Speech. You may wish to ask the Lord Chancellor (who delivers the Speech) if he has any final points. He may wish to suggest a form of words for a reference to the Mexican earthquake (perhaps at paragraph 7, which already deals with the famine in Africa).

4. On the Opening Speech you will wish to ask if there are any points of substance; if not, any drafting points should be sent to the Secretary of the Cabinet.

5. You will wish to indicate that there is always the possibility of last-minute changes to reflect sufficiently important developments.

CONCLUSIONS

6. It would be convenient to send both Speeches to be printed on 24 October, although the Opening Speech could be deferred by a few days if necessary. It seems unlikely that the Cabinet will wish to reconsider the Speeches (if they wished to do so, it would have to be at a specially arranged Cabinet early in the week of 14 October and that would leave little time for The Queen to comment). It would therefore be preferable if Cabinet could approve both Speeches at this meeting, subject to any last-minute alterations. You may therefore wish to guide the Cabinet:

(a) if any substantive issues are raised, to invite the Lord President, in consultation with Ministers concerned, to revise the draft Speeches attached to C(85) 22 as necessary in the light of the discussion;

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(b) subject to (a), and to any further changes necessary in the light of subsequent developments or minor drafting changes, to approve the draft Speeches for submission to The Queen.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

2 October 1985

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1985/86

Essential (4)

L	1.	MOD	Armed Forces
L	2.	FCO	European (Spanish and Portuguese Accession)
	3.	FCO	Crown Agents (Waiver of Interest)
	4.	NIO	Northern Ireland (Loans)

Programme (23)

	17.	MAFF	Agriculture
	19.	MOD	Royal Dockyards
L	20.	DES	Education
	22.	DEm	Wages
	25.	DEn	Atomic Energy Authority
	25a.	DEn	Gas
	27	DOE	Housing and Planning
	28.	DOE	Local Government
	34.	FCO	Commonwealth Development Corporation (Overseas Subsidiaries)
	35.	DHSS	Social Security
L	38.	HO	Animals (Scientific Procedures)
	39.	HO	Shops
	41.	HO	Public Order
L	41a.	HO	Drug Trafficking
L	46.	LCD	Latent Damage
	49.	OAL	Museum of London (Amendment)
	50.	SO	Housing (Scotland)
L	51.	SO	Legal Aid (Scotland)
L	53.	SO	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries
	56.	DTI	Financial Services
	61.	DTp	Civil Aviation
	62.	HMT	Building Societies
	62a.	DTp	Okehampton Bypass

'L' indicates a presumption that the Bill will be introduced in the House of Lords, although the final decision will be taken by Legislation Committee.

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Uncontroversial (8)

64.	DES	Fellowship of Engineering and Further Education Unit (Grants)
65.	FCO	Superannuation (British Council etc)
66.	FCO	Irish Soldiers and Sailors' Land Trust (Winding Up)
L 45.	LCD	Public Trustee and Funds Administration
L 69.	LCD	Family and Matrimonial (Miscellaneous Provisions)
L 70.	LCD	Land Registration
L 71.	DTI	Regulation/Outer Space
L 72.	DTI	Trade Marks (Consequential Amendments)

Contingent (10)

5.	DEm	Sex Discrimination (Amendment)
6.	DOE	Local Government (Commissioners)
8.	DOE	Private Water Supplies
9.	FCO	Australia (Request and Consent)
10.	FCO	Territorial Sea
11.	FCO	Arms Control Observers and Inspectors (Immunities)
12.	DTI	Companies (Companies Registration Office and Charges)
14.	DTI	British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)
15.	DTI	Export Credits (ECGD)
16.	DTP	Channel Fixed Link