



For. Pol.

Ref. A083/0501

~~MR BUTLER~~

You have asked for advice on a draft reply to the letter which Lord Dulverton sent to the Prime Minister on ~~20th~~ January about Mr Norman Reddaway's proposals for a "quick reaction intelligence unit".

Part 2 - 2. It is not clear to me what proposals Lord Dulverton is referring to. Mr Reddaway was involved in the preparation of proposals submitted to the Prime Minister by Mr Eldon Griffiths in 1981 for a new "information projection group", on which I Part 2 - - minuted Mr Coles on 22nd December 1981 (reference A086998) and on 5th April 1982 (reference A08020). But those proposals were involved with projection of information rather than collection of and reaction to intelligence.

3. In the circumstances, I suggest that the Prime Minister sends a short reply to Lord Dulverton, referring briefly to what she said in her speech to the House of Commons on 25th January about changes to the working of the assessments machinery, and offers Mr Reddaway a chance to come and talk to me, if he would like to come and do so to go into more detail.

--- 4. I attach a draft reply on these lines.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10th February 1983



DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO LORD DULVERTON

Thank you for your letter of 20th January.

You will perhaps have seen from my speech in the House of Commons on 25th January, opening the debate on the Franks Report, that the Government have accepted the proposal in the Report that the Chairman of the JIC should be an official of the Cabinet Office. He will be able to give more time to supervising the working of the assessments machinery, and the appointment will serve to emphasise the critical and the independent role that we wish the JIC to assume.

This change, coupled with certain other modifications to the organisation which we had already concluded would be desirable, is intended to ensure that the assessments machinery and the JIC itself will be better fitted to respond quickly to indications of an impending crisis - to carry out in effect the sort of function that you have in mind.

I was interested by what you told me about Norman Reddaway's ideas.

The Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong, ^{*is letting Mr.*} would be ~~very ready to talk to Norman Reddaway~~ ^{*know that he is very ready to talk to him about this.*} ~~about this and about his ideas, if Norman Reddaway would like to get in touch with him.~~



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I am interested by what you told me about the situation in the East.



For. Pol. ^{FIVE} 800
9/2
Lord DULVERTON

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 January, 1983

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Lord Dulverton.

I should be grateful for a draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to him by 9 February.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Richard Hatfield, Esq.,
Cabinet Office