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CABINET

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet
held at 10 Downing Street on

THURSDAY 30 JUNE 1988

at 10.00 am

P R E S E N T

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Rt Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern
Lord Chancellor

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MP
Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon George Younger MP
Secretary of State for Defence

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Secretary of State for Employment

The Rt Hon Tom King MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Secretary of State for Education
and Science

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP
Secretary of State for Transport

The Rt Hon John Moore MP
Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord President of the Council

The Rt Hon The Lord Belstead
Lord Privy Seal

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Energy

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary, Treasury

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Lochbroom QC
Lord Advocate (Item 5)

The Rt Hon David Waddington QC MP
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

The Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP
Paymaster General

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robin Butler
 Mr R G Lavelle (Items 3 and 4)
 Mr P J Weston (Items 3 and 4)
 Mr A J Langdon (Items 1,2 and 5)
 Mr S S Mundy (Items 1,2 and 5)

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PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS

1. The Cabinet were informed of the business to be taken in the House of Commons in the following week.

Cleveland
Child Abuse
Inquiry

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES said that Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's report on the Cleveland child abuse inquiry was due to be published on the following Wednesday. The Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security (Minister for Health) had circulated to members of the Home Affairs Committee copies of a short version of the report, which had been prepared by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, together with a draft of an initial statement to be made in the House of Commons at the time of publication. He and the Secretary of State for Wales intended to publish on the same day a circular and guidance to Social Services and Health Authorities on the handling of child abuse cases, and he understood that the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Education and Science would be issuing guidance to the police and teaching professions respectively. The report was highly critical of the poor co-ordination between the various relevant agencies in Cleveland and the guidance which was being issued would recommend changes designed to improve communications and co-operation between interested agencies. He would be publishing at the same time as the Cleveland report a report by the Social Services Inspectorate which indicated that co-ordination between different agencies in other parts of the country was generally good. The Cleveland report criticised the Social Services Department for being far too easily led by Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt, the two paediatricians involved, and senior police officers came in for criticism for failing to press with sufficient vigour the senior police surgeon's grave reservations about the paediatricians' methods. While the report did not call into question the paediatricians' motives, it made clear that the reflex anal dilation test on which their assessments were based should not be relied on as sufficient evidence of child sexual abuse. That view was confirmed in a report of a Sub-Committee of the Standing Medical Advisory Committee which would also be published on the following Wednesday. It would be for the Health Authority to consider in the light of the report the reinstatement of the two paediatricians but he did not expect them to be reinstated. The report supported the proposals for reforming child care law in the White Paper on Child Care and Family Services. Although Lord Justice Butler-Sloss did not specifically address the question, he now proposed to give parents and guardians an earlier opportunity to challenge emergency protection orders than would have been possible under the White Paper proposals.

In discussion, the following main points were made:

- a. There was a widespread feeling of outrage about the appalling treatment of innocent families in Cleveland and the apparent readiness to remove children from their parents on inadequate evidence and to inflict on them physical examinations which could have a profoundly adverse psychological impact. It would be vital to reassure parents that all possible steps were being taken

to ensure that the mistakes which had been made in Cleveland would not recur. The public would not understand it if the two paediatricians were reinstated. While Mr Stuart Bell, the local Member of Parliament, had come in for some criticism in Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's report, there would be great public support for the robust way in which he had campaigned on behalf of his constituents.

b. Until fairly recently, the public perception was that the relevant agencies had been too lax in dealing with child abuse, but it was now felt that they were tending to go too far in the opposite direction. It was extremely difficult to steer an acceptable line on these sensitive issues.

c. The Lord Chancellor was preparing proposals for a Child Protection Office, along the lines recommended in the Cleveland report. The main purpose of such an office would be to improve the allocation and management of cases. He was also considering whether new arrangements might be established to bring together in a single court care proceedings in Magistrates' Court and wardship proceedings in the High Court.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that there was an acute sense of public outrage about the way in which innocent parents and their children had been treated and the Government's comments on the report by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss should reflect that concern in plain language in a way which would be clearly understood. It was essential to reassure the public that safeguards against child abuse would be provided without parents and children being subjected to such treatment. The Secretary of State for Social Services should revise as necessary the proposed Government statement to take account of the points made in discussion and should circulate it to all members of the Cabinet before the weekend. The Cabinet noted that guidance would be issued to the agencies involved and that the Secretary of State for Social Services and the Lord Chancellor were working up a series of proposals to respond to recommendations in the report and to put into effect other improvements which might be required.

The Cabinet -

1. Invited the Secretary of State for Social Services to circulate to them the proposed Government response to the report of the inquiry into child abuse in Cleveland, as indicated in the Prime Minister's summing up.

House of
Lords
Business

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE said that the House of Lords were due to debate on 12 July the Statement on the Defence Estimates 1988 (Cmnd 344). The debate would probably focus on the report by the Defence Select Committee, which had been published earlier that week, on the size and role of the service fleet. That report contained a number of

misleading assertions, which had been further distorted by sections of the media, but there was not sufficient time before the proposed debate for the Government to respond formally. There was likely to be a two-day debate on defence in the House of Commons during the overspill, and it would be welcome if the House of Lords debate could be deferred until that time.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up a brief discussion, said that the business of the House of Lords had been carefully arranged to enable them to deal with the final stages of a number of important Bills over the following month and, against that background, it would not be wise for the Government to reschedule the defence debate. While not formally anticipating the Government's response to the Select Committee report the Government spokesman could draw on the arguments which would be advanced in it. The Cabinet noted that the Education Reform Bill and the Local Government Finance Bill, both of which had been handled with great skill, remained on course for Royal Assent before the Summer Adjournment.

The Cabinet -

- 2. Took note

HOME AFFAIRS

National Health Service

Previous Reference: CC(88) 9.2

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES said that the Social Services Select Committee would be publishing a report early the following week which was likely to call on the Government to allocate substantial additional resources to the National Health Service (NHS). The report, which was not based on any serious examination of the NHS or its needs, had been timed to coincide with the Labour Party's Health Day at Alexandra Palace the following Sunday and the debate on the NHS in Opposition time on the following Tuesday.

Risley Remand Centre

THE HOME SECRETARY said that a report by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons on Risley Remand Centre would be published later that day. He had commissioned the report following six recent suicides at the centre. The report was highly critical of the state of the buildings and of the regime but the most disturbing feature was that it found that his Department's guidance on reducing the risks of suicides had not been followed. Since he had received the report, the Governor and Deputy Governor had been moved, the Fresh Start working arrangements had been introduced at the centre and a programme had been set in hand to refurbish it.

The Cabinet -

- Took note.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Soviet Union
Special Party Conference

3. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, had made a skilful and successful speech at the Special Party Conference of the CPSU which had opened in Moscow earlier that week. Mr Gorbachev had caused some surprise by his proposals for political reform, especially the creation of a new Congress of People's Deputies. This Congress would elect the President of the Supreme Soviet with the expectation that this would normally be the General Secretary of the CPSU implying that Mr Gorbachev himself would occupy the post. The proposals had been put together in such a way as to command broad consent and would have the effect of strengthening the personal position of Mr Gorbachev in what might by analogy be described as "Gaullist" terms. Nevertheless, there was no evidence of fundamental change to the system. The KGB remained; and the Party leadership took care to maintain firm support from the Soviet military. Mr Gorbachev was evidently attempting to shape the political structures of the Soviet Union in such a way as to enhance the chances of success for his economic reform programme. At the end of his speech Mr Gorbachev had said that this programme was progressing too slowly; and, in a striking sentence, had complained of what he called "this ossified system of government" with its centralised systems of command and pressure. The process of reform would be a very long haul, made more difficult by the expectations aroused by Mr Gorbachev of improvements in standards of living of Russian citizens.

Malta

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the recent ships' visit to Malta led by HMS Ark Royal had taken place against a background of domestic political strife there, with attempts by the Opposition of Mr Dom Mintoff to embarrass the Maltese Government. The Royal Naval ships had put into St Paul's Harbour rather than Valletta. They had received a warm welcome but the incident had been potentially very awkward. The Maltese Parliament had reaffirmed a non-nuclear policy on 23 June. The United Kingdom had therefore sought assurances, to be made public if necessary, that Malta recognised the British policy of neither confirming nor denying whether Royal Naval ships carried nuclear weapons. These assurances had been obtained and the visit had proceeded. But in the event the Maltese unilaterally added a paragraph to their letter referring to a basis of friendly and mutual trust that the resolution of their Parliament was being observed. The British High Commissioner in Malta had therefore had to take action to establish that there was no presumption one way or the other whether nuclear weapons were being carried. It was disturbing that the Government's policy of neither confirming nor denying should apparently be coming under increasing pressure from different quarters. He would ensure that Posts in countries hosting visits by Royal Naval ships under the "Outback 88" deployment were thoroughly briefed.

In discussion, it was noted that even those Mintoff supporters who demonstrated against nuclear weapons had expressed their positive feelings toward the Royal Navy; the restricted shore leave in Malta for

Naval personnel associated with this visit had passed off well. It was nevertheless a pity that this problem should have cropped up, particularly since the Government had spent so much money in the recent past in raising Second World War wrecks from Valletta Harbour.

Southern
Africa

Previous
Reference:
CC(88) 16.3

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that a further round of talks had taken place that week in Cairo between the United States, Cuba, Angola and South Africa. Although that process was continuing, the armed encounters on 27 July between Cuban/Angolan forces and the South Africans had not been helpful. South Africa was claiming 200 Cubans and Angolans killed and admitted having lost 12 members of its own defence forces. The original clash had been between ground forces close to the border between Angola and Namibia. This had led to a Cuban air strike on the South African held Calueque Dam. There was evidence that the Cubans may not have consulted the Angolan Government or even informed them in advance about this air raid. There was a risk of further trouble ahead.

Persian Gulf

Previous
Reference:
CC(88) 14.3

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the visit to Iran by a delegation of British members of Parliament had passed off uneventfully. The visitors had not succeeded in meeting anyone of great importance or learning anything significant. The press conference they had given on their return had been undramatic. As for the Gulf War, Iraq had made some headway with the recapture the previous week of the Majnoon Islands, thus effectively ending Iranian occupation of Iraqi territory in the southern sector. Iraq would now bend its efforts to repossessing occupied areas in the north. In Iran there were signs of internal upheaval and discontent. The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Mr Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, had taken over as acting Commander-in-Chief. There was heightened speculation about the health of the Iranian Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, who was certainly very frail. But no fundamental change in Iranian policy was foreseen. British policy therefore remained unchanged. It was to press for implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 and to support the efforts of the United Nations' Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, even though there was not yet enough solidarity among key members of the Security Council to make possible an arms embargo. In the meantime, the Government had agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Netherlands and Belgium by which, with effect from 1 July, the minesweeping forces in the Persian Gulf of the three countries would be integrated under British operational control. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons had published a report that day which had helpfully endorsed all aspects of the Government's policy in the region, including that on hostages.

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rough in
the United
States of
America

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY referred to the economic effects of the current drought in the United States. He had heard on good authority that if there were no rain within the next few days the consequences would be that the price of grain on world markets would rise above the intervention level. He thought it desirable that some work be put in hand to analyse the economic implications of all this.

The Cabinet -

Took note.

COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS

Hanover
European
Council,
27-28 June

4. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the conclusions reached at the Hanover European Council on 27-28 June were in line with United Kingdom objectives. The Prime Minister's earlier contacts with Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand and those with Presidency officials in Bonn and with the Secretary General of the Commission had been helpful in achieving this result. The single market priorities identified for the future reflected our own major interests. We had headed off a renewed French bid, already successfully resisted in the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers, to secure a link between harmonisation of taxes on savings and the implementation of the capital movements directive. On social issues, we could expect increasing pressure under the next three Presidencies but any damaging conclusions involving regulatory commitments had been successfully avoided on this occasion. As regards monetary questions, Governors would lead in the agreed study. The Committee would be chaired by the President of the Commission, with three additional members, plus one additional Commissioner. It would report through the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers. The mandate for the study made no reference to a European Central Bank. Although this was not fully reflected in the final conclusions, there had been a helpful discussion of frontier issues following a call by the Dutch Prime Minister for a study of the problems of access to member states and the social integration of immigrants from third countries. Monsieur Delors had been reappointed as President of the Commission for a two-year term.

In discussion, it was noted that at least two and perhaps all three of the additional members designated to serve in the monetary study were likely to have a helpful influence. There was however no assurance that the Committee's conclusions would be brought before the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers in adequate time for them to have the input that would be desirable into the recommendations that went forward. It would be necessary to find ways to get round this difficulty. On social questions, there would be continuing pressure to introduce additional regulations and standardised labour legislation. The battle here was by no means over. As regards frontier controls, it was essential that these should be maintained to deal effectively with entry of third country nationals and to combat terrorism, crime and drug traffic. We wished to make it easier for Community nationals to travel within the Community and the adoption of passports in common form would,

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together with computerisation, assist. But the Community faced major problems over immigrant control. The problem was illustrated by the fact that over the last four years, there had been some 600,000 asylum applications to Western European countries. Several European Community member states faced difficulties in relation to specific nationals. The additional studies proposed by the Dutch Prime Minister and the recognition in the Council's discussion of the importance of frontier controls represented a helpful background to the further practical planning which Interior Ministers had in train.

988
agricultural
rice
fixing

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that after it had been thought agreement had been reached on green currency devaluations, the Greeks had challenged the Commission's interpretation of the Council texts. We had urged the Commission and other member states to stand firm against any further concession. The Greeks had used the threat of the Luxembourg compromise to hold out for their own interpretation. In discussion it was suggested that it might be necessary to review United Kingdom policy of support of the invocation of the Luxembourg compromise in all circumstances. On the other hand, it was argued that given the increased provision for qualified majority voting, use of the compromise might in some situations be the only recourse remaining open to the United Kingdom. The solution might not be to ban use of the compromise but find ways of preventing it being devalued, perhaps on the lines of a past precedent where the absence of agreement following a German invocation had led to use of Commission management powers.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that Cabinet concluded that we should seek to ensure that the Greek interpretation of the Council texts did not prevail while not abandoning our view of the Luxembourg compromise, and invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to proceed accordingly.

Industry
Council,
4 June

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER said that at the Industry Council on 24 June the Commission had confirmed that they were not proposing any prolongation of steel quotas beyond 30 June. The market would now determine the levels of production in each member state. The Commission had made clear that they would in addition wish to monitor very carefully any proposals for state aids for restructuring national industries which might distort competition. A major current issue was the extent of state aids which the Italian Government wished to offer to the Bagnoli plant at Naples. German steel production in the Ruhr was also likely to come under pressure, with the possibility of closure of some Krupp plants. The Commission's approach was welcome since potential buyers for the British Steel Corporation would feel more protected against subsidised competition.

Environment
Council
8 June

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT said that at its meeting on 28 June, the Environment Council had settled the final details of the agreement on acid rain. It had also reached agreement on the next stage for limiting emissions from small cars and on guidelines for a directive reducing discharges into water of titanium dioxide.

The Cabinet -

Took note.

DISORDER IN
RURAL AREAS

Previous
Reference:
CC(88) 20.2

5. The Cabinet considered a memorandum by the Home Secretary (C(88) 9) on disorder in rural areas, prepared in response to the Cabinet's invitation at their meeting on 9 June.

THE HOME SECRETARY said that there had recently been a number of well-publicised disorders in rural areas, but that these needed to be seen against the fact that the levels of recorded crime in the Shires were about half those of metropolitan areas. On the other hand, the recorded crime figures for non-metropolitan areas were rising by about 3 per cent a year, while those in metropolitan areas were on a slightly downward trend. There was some feeling that the media were exaggerating the problem of rural disorder, and this would need to be watched. There was, in fact, nothing new about disorders in market towns, but it did seem that there was currently a growing problem of youths who had been given no sense of social responsibility by their parents; who spent their substantial wages on drinking in clubs and public houses that were increasingly designed to attract a young age group; and who readily turned to violence against each other and against the police. He had therefore in the previous year set up a working group of officials and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to examine the problem, and this group had recommended the operational improvements set out in the annex to C(88) 9. He proposed to encourage the chief police officers to put these recommendations into effect, and to commission research that would provide the police with operationally useful information about the kinds of people responsible for rural disorder and the circumstances that precipitated it. The police were, very understandably, using rural disorder as an argument to support their requests for more police manpower. It would require extraordinary increases in manpower to enable county and rural forces to tackle outbreaks of disorder as effectively as could the inner city forces but he believed that some additional manpower, together with operational improvements of the kind recommended by the ACPO working party, could make a helpful difference. This was reflected in the proposals for further increases in police manpower that he presently had under discussion with colleagues. Adequate maximum sentences were already available for all the most relevant offences, but the effect of a successful prosecution was much diluted if it was delayed for several months after the event: he therefore proposed to discuss with the police, the magistrates' courts and the Crown Prosecution Service the possibilities for bringing on prosecutions for disorderly offences at the first possible moment. Most importantly, alcohol was clearly a very

major factor: it featured in no less than 90 per cent of the incidents of rural disorder in 1987 reported to the ACPO working party. At a meeting about football hooliganism under the Prime Minister's chairmanship the previous day he had agreed to consider whether the magistrates' existing power to order the temporary closure of licenced premises in areas where riot or tumult was predicted might require some revision. He had also agreed to consider what might be done to enforce the law against under-age drinking. More generally, he believed that licensing justices had become too lax and were not sufficiently using the sanction of removing the licences of public houses where disorders took place. He proposed to issue firm guidance on this matter both to licensing justices and to the police, since he had no doubt that the removal of a licence from a disorderly public house had an immediate and salutary effect on all public houses in the area.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT reported that at the meeting on the previous day about football hooliganism it had been agreed that the football authorities should be urged to withdraw the England team from friendly matches abroad for the next year, and from the Rous Cup competition. It had also been agreed that the football authorities should be requested to establish a full national membership scheme, whereby only spectators with membership cards would be admitted to football matches in England and Wales. In the probable event that the football authorities were unable to deliver an acceptable scheme, the legislation would be needed to impose it. In addition to the licensing matters already mentioned the Home Secretary had also undertaken to review the adequacy of existing court powers to keep convicted football hooligans away from matches, both at home and abroad, by enforcing their attendance at reporting centres when matches were on.

In discussion the following main points were made -

a. An effective attack on alcohol abuse required action in various quarters. The brewers should do more to ensure that their public houses were kept in an orderly fashion, and it was politically very desirable that they should be seen to take on this responsibility as the Licensing Act came into force. The police should adopt a far more sustained and positive attitude in opposing licenses for disorderly public houses. The licensing justices needed to be much more rigorous in performing their duties. The Lord President of the Council's Ministerial Group on Alcohol Misuse had heard of a number of areas where good practice and co-operation had been established, but standards in these matters varied greatly around the country. There would be advantage in making arrangements to share experience and good practice.

b. Members of local communities were not always the best people to be entrusted with responsibilities for the regulation of trade, and it was probable that licensing justices often felt inhibited from acting as firmly as the occasion warranted. There was therefore a case for using stipendiary magistrates to take licensing decisions, however much such an innovation might be resented.

c. On the other hand, there were other respects in which local decision-making was to be encouraged. The Coventry City Council, for example, had put forward bye-laws to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in public places and, while the Home Secretary had not taken a final decision on this, he was minded to enable an experiment to go ahead in Coventry despite the reservations of the police. The object would be to see if it was possible to use such a power to strike at objectionable, rowdy public drinking without precipitating uncontrollable protest from respectable people who enjoyed a picnic.

d. One possibility being canvassed in the fight against under-age drinking was a scheme for making service at a public house conditional on the production of an identity card displaying the bearer's photograph and age. The Home Secretary intended to pursue this possibility, which was consistent with the much wider acceptance of identity documents of various kinds in modern society.

e. Public houses were not necessarily the alcohol outlets that caused the most trouble. Supermarkets and, in particular, off-licences were probably more at fault in supplying drink to drunken or under-age customers, and in certain areas there were severe problems with discotheques and clubs of various kinds that simultaneously decanted their clientele into the streets in the small hours. While a tough approach to the conduct of such clubs was well justified, however, restrictions on the number of clubs that was allowed in an area would not sit easily with the Government's policies on competition and deregulation. It was also often argued that the declining real levels of taxation on alcohol had contributed to excessive consumption.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that alcohol abuse was very obviously an important common factor between all the forms of youthful public disorder that were currently in the public eye. This was a major social concern on which the Government should take - and be seen to take - decisive and energetic action. It was clear that the operation of the licensing system required a vigorous shake-up and that, in particular, licensing justices were not prepared to contemplate the withdrawal of licences as often as they should. This was highly regrettable, as the Cabinet shared the Home Secretary's view that the withdrawal of a public house's licence was likely to have a most salutary effect on all the public houses in the neighbourhood. The Home Secretary should therefore proceed urgently with the tough new guidance to licensing justices and the police proposed in C(88)9. While that initiative should take full account of clubs, discotheques, off-licences and other alcohol outlets, it was also the case that the brewing companies had a special responsibility for ensuring the orderly running of their public houses and the Home Secretary should call in the brewers' representatives to discuss this. The Lord Chancellor should be involved in the guidance to licensing justices, and he and the Home Secretary should consider the possibility of giving licensing work to

stipendiary magistrates. The Cabinet welcomed the Home Secretary's intention of urgently reviewing the enforcement of the law against under-age drinking and in that connection the discussion had revealed considerable support, which the Home Secretary would wish to bear in mind, for encouraging some form of identity card scheme. The Cabinet welcomed the Home Secretary's intention of discussing the possibility of very quick prosecutions and court hearings with the responsible agencies, and they trusted that those responsible for the next significant disorder that took place would be dealt with crisply and expeditiously. The Cabinet also approved the Home Secretary's remaining proposals in C(88) 9, namely the encouragement of chief police officers to implement the ACPO working party's recommendations annexed to C(88) 9 and the commissioning of research that would be operationally useful to the police. It would be helpful if the Home Secretary would make a further report on the progress of these measures in September.

The Cabinet -

Took note with approval of the Prime Minister's summing up of the discussion and invited the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor to proceed accordingly.

Cabinet Office

30 June 1988