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CC Mr. Vassilov
CABINET



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

15 October 1985

CF in these letters to NO and
SS (without implying any
assessments).

JRM
15/10

Dear Richard,

ATTACHED

Thank you for your letter of 9 October
about press handling of the MISC 120
proceedings. I have discussed it with
the Lord President, who strongly agrees
with the Chief Secretary's approach. I
have told Bernard Ingham this, and am
copying this reply to him and to David
Norgrove.

Yours sincerely

Joan

Joan MacNaughton
Private Secretary to the
Lord President

Richard Broadbent, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary,
Treasury Chambers,
Parliament Street.

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*cc of the main
Cabinet Office.*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

9 October 1985

NBPT.

Ms Joan McNaughton
Private Secretary to the Lord President

Dear Joan

MISC 120: PRESS HANDLING

Attached

Following the Prime Minister's summing up at Cabinet on 3 October, the Chief Secretary has been considering whether there are steps which could usefully be taken to minimise Press speculation about the work of MISC 120. In this context, he thinks it is essential to ensure that no information is given to the Press in any circumstances about the subjects being discussed by MISC 120 or its timetable. Experience last year shows that once it is known which subjects are being discussed on which days Press speculation inevitably follows about the respective positions of the Ministers involved and the outcome of discussions. He has therefore instructed the Treasury Press Office to make sure that no such information is given, whether in response to questions or otherwise. He hopes that the Lord President will agree that this approach should be adopted generally.

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove and Bernard Ingham at No. 10.

*Yours sincerely
Richard Broadbent*

RICHARD BROADBENT

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