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HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

14 September 1988

Dear Nigel,

BROADCASTING WHITE PAPER

We spoke about the further handling of this White Paper, which the Home Secretary will shortly be circulating to his MISC 128 colleagues under cover of a minute to the Prime Minister. As you know, a meeting of MISC 128 to discuss the White Paper is arranged for 27 September.

As I mentioned, the Home Secretary thinks that the White Paper is of such importance that it merits collective discussion in Cabinet before it is published. He is alive to the need not to see the policy decisions which MISC 128 have so carefully assembled thrown into confusion by discussion in Cabinet. But he believes that the White Paper is of major strategic importance, covering as it does an issue which touches the lives of everyone. Moreover it is certain to be highly controversial and the collective commitment of the whole Cabinet to the proposals seems highly desirable.

The Home Secretary would therefore be grateful if you would take the Prime Minister's mind on how she wishes the White Paper handled vis a vis Cabinet. I mentioned to you that in addition certain Ministers - notably the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Education - have a particular Departmental interest in the White Paper, and you may agree that there is a case for the Home Secretary sending them an advance copy of it before the next meeting of MISC 128, with an invitation to submit any comments in writing which could be taken into account at that meeting. But however we treat these particular interests, the Home Secretary would still see merit in the wider Cabinet discussion I have mentioned.

I await your advice. Meanwhile a copy of this letter goes to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

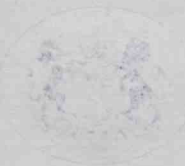
Yours sincerely,

P J C MAWER

N L Wicks, Esq., CBE.

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