

PRIME MINISTER

BROADCASTING WHITE PAPER

*The modified proposals  
are much better. I do  
not believe we should  
rush the W.P. I tend  
towards (iii)  
below  
no*

The Home Secretary sent you, under cover of his minute at flag A, a draft of the Broadcasting White Paper. Since then, Brian Griffiths has had some useful discussions with the Home Secretary to follow up the points which he agreed with you at your discussion with him last week. The Home Secretary's response to Brian is in his letter at flag B. At flag C is the Home Office's suggested redraft of the relevant sections of the White Paper. (For ease of reading, I have also interleaved the revised text into the draft of the White Paper at flag A, marking the revised pages with a large red cross.) There is also a useful background note from the Cabinet Office at flag D.

Brian's first impression is that the Home Office have moved a long way in our direction and he will provide a detailed assessment on Monday; and if the diary allows, there may be an opportunity for you to have a talk with Brian as well. We have also arranged for you to have a discussion with the Home Secretary on Tuesday at 1700 hours.

Subject to the outcome of Tuesday's meeting with the Home Secretary, there are three possible timetables for the Ministerial consideration of the draft White Paper:

- (i) an early MISC 128 with a view to Cabinet consideration of the White Paper on Thursday 6 October;
- (ii) a MISC 128 discussion with a view to Cabinet consideration of the draft White Paper after the Party Conference;
- (iii) both the MISC 128 meeting and Cabinet's

consideration of the White Paper as soon as possible after the Party Conference.

(i) would require a great rush; (ii) could risk leaks during the Party Conference and minimise the White Paper's eventual impact; there is no immediate rush for publishing the White Paper, so (iii) looks the best option. But you can discuss the timetable with the Home Secretary when we are clear on the substance.

N.L.W.

N.L. WICKS

23 September 1988

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