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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE HOME SECRETARY: 27 SEPTEMBER

You are meeting Douglas Hurd to take stock of the position on the Broadcasting White Paper following his exchanges with Brian Griffiths. The Home Secretary also wants to have a brief word at the end of the meeting about the Russian Cosmos satellite which is out of control and likely shortly to return to earth.

Broadcasting

You saw a number of papers over the weekend. These are enclosed together with some later notes. The papers are:-

- Flag A - The full draft of the broadcasting White Paper circulated by the Home Secretary earlier this month. It has interleaved in it the revised draft passages the Home Secretary now proposes, following his talks with Brian.
- Flag B - Letter the Home Secretary sent Brian on 21 September.
- Flag C - A further Home Office note in today explaining the revised line the Home Secretary now proposes on the key issues discussed with Brian. Also at Flag C are the revised passages for the White Paper the Home Secretary now proposes on these points.
- Flag D - Anthony Langdon's comments on the key issues.
- Flag E - Brian's latest note setting out the line he proposes you to take on the outstanding issues.
- Flag F - A note by Bernard Ingham, expressing his broad

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support for the approach now emerging, but raising an important point of detail on the news remit to be given to Channel 3 stations.

I suggest that you take as the main papers for tomorrow's discussion the revised Home Office material (Flag C) and Brian's note (Flag E). The priority is to settle the issues of substance, rather than the finer points of drafting which can be refined later. You might like to take the issues in the order set out in Brian's note.

After the discussion on the substance, you also need to settle the handling. When you saw the papers over the weekend you tended to the view that both the MISC 128 meeting and Cabinet consideration of the White Paper should be as soon as possible after the Party Conference. You will want to confirm that arrangement with the Home Secretary. You might like to invite him to circulate a revised version of the full material at Flag A to form the basis of the MISC 128 discussion.

Cosmos satellite

The Home Secretary will be minuting you tomorrow morning about the public handling of the Cosmos threat. He apparently wants to take your mind on how forthcoming to be with the public. We will try to arrange for you to have a chance for a quick glance at his minute before tomorrow afternoon's meeting.

*PG*

Paul Gray

26 September 1988

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