

PRIME MINISTER

GREEN PAPER ON PUBLIC ORDER

When you saw the Home Secretary's minute (Flag A) you asked the Home Secretary to reconsider the scope of the document itself, since you were worried that it might prove highly controversial.

The Home Secretary has indeed looked at the balance of the document again, and the result is the letter at Flag B, which says that the Home Secretary's view remains that the Green Paper is worth publishing in essentially its present form.

After you had seen the document last time we also received some comments from Sir Robert Armstrong (Flag C). He makes the point that the draft gives an emphasis on "the freedom to demonstrate" which might not be welcome by every Conservative Party supporter. This point has already been taken up by the Home Office in the light of comments from the Chief Secretary.

In the light of all of these views, are you content to let the Home Secretary do as he wishes and publish the document in its present form?

9 April 1980

T.L. informed 11/4
Yes

MS