

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE

H agreed yesterday:

1. To introduce a revised Police and Criminal Evidence Bill as soon as possible after Parliament resumes. The main revisions are:-

- (a) provision in the Bill itself, rather than in a code, for tape recordings of police interviews with suspects;
- (b) establishment of a Police Complaints Authority;
- (c) intimate body searches permitted only for protective purposes, and
- (d) tighter definition of serious arrestable offences.

The Committee felt the Government should this time take the initiative in public discussion of the Bill, and seek support from Government backbenchers.

2. To publish a White Paper on an independent national prosecution service. Reservations were expressed about the creation of a centralised bureaucracy, and the effects on public expenditure and civil service manpower. With these points in mind, the Committee invited the Home Secretary to give the White Paper "green edges". They will be considering a redraft, with a view to publication before the second reading of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

The Committee also discussed representation of the people. The Lord President has minuted you separately about this.

DB

5 October, 1983