

I shall need quite some time on this to narrow down MF.

PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT ON THE SECURITY COMMISSION REPORT

You might like to have another look over the weekend at the draft statement on the Security Commission report which you are due to make in the House on Tuesday 6 April.

When you saw the draft before, you made one or two remarks on it. First, you suggested the deletion of the sentence in paragraph two you have put in brackets. I have discussed this with Sir Robert Armstrong, and he thinks that it is worth including the sentence because it directly reflects the views of Lord Diplock and his colleagues. With that in mind, he has suggested amending the sentence to read "I share the view of Lord Diplock and his colleagues that an expurgated version of the report would give a misleading impression of it". Would you like to include this new sentence ?

I have also consulted Sir Robert Armstrong about the changes you have made to the penultimate sentence of paragraph two, and he is happy about this.

You also asked whether the words you underlined in the penultimate sentence of paragraph four of the draft ^{were} ~~was~~ a direct quote. ^{They are.} ~~It is~~. Content to leave the sentence as it is ?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer wonders whether the first sentence of paragraph four might be thought to be provocatively bland and he has suggested that it should be either omitted or expanded. I have discussed the Chancellor's comment with Sir Robert Armstrong, and he takes the view that since it is true that the findings of the review are reassuring, it is worth saying so in plain language. I think this is right. Agree that the sentence should stay in ?

Yes

KAW

2 April 1982



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1 April 1982

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New Cline,

DIPLOCK *with COW?*

The Chancellor has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 26 March, and the papers which were attached to it. His only comment is that he wonders whether the first sentence of paragraph 4 of the draft Oral Statement might not be seen as provocatively bland. His advice is that it should be either omitted or expanded.

A copy of this letter goes to David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,
J O Kerr.

J O KERR
Principal Private Secretary

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