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9 min to message
at 1310.

Security



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 May 1982

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your reply to my letter of 14 May, about the publication of a statement on the Security Commission's Review of security procedures and practices in the public service, and the announcement of the resignation of Lord Diplock and the appointment of Lord Bridge and Lord Justice Griffiths.

I understand your preference for an oral statement in advance of publication of the White Paper, and I have given further thought to this today. I have, however, concluded that I should not make an oral statement tomorrow, but that I should save my comments on the subject for any later debate.

I am reluctant to disturb the convention of cooperation between the front benches on these matters. I am therefore sorry not to be able to fall in with your preferences. I should still very much like to be able to announce the forthcoming White Paper in a written reply to you, but if you feel unable to table the Question, I shall then invite a Privy Counsellor from the Government side to do so. As the White Paper has now been printed for publication on Thursday, it is essential to have a Question tabled tonight for ordinary written reply tomorrow. I should be most grateful if you could arrange for your office to let mine know by 6 pm tonight

/ whether or not

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whether or not you will be tabling the Question suggested in my last letter.

Y
Yours sincerely
Raymond Webster

The Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, M.P.

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Secretary
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19 May 1982

The Prime Minister undertook to let Mr. Foot have, on Privy Counsellor terms, an advance copy of the statement about the Security Commission Report which is to be published at 3.30 p.m. tomorrow in a Command Paper.

I now enclose the document, together with advance copies of the Press Release about changes in the membership of the Security Commission and the Answer which the Prime Minister will give to Mr. John Peyton this afternoon announcing publication of the Paper.

I. W. F. S. RICKETT

Sir Tom McCaffrey

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:
Michael Foot MP

18 May 1982

Dear Margaret

Thank you for your letter.
I am sorry that you are
unwilling to make an oral
statement about the Security
Commission report. I think
it would have been better to
have followed the normal
practice. If you intend to
go ahead with a written reply,
I shall quite understand if
you invite a Privy Councillor
to put down the Question.

M. Foot

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:
Michael Foot MP

18 May 1982

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter about the publication of the Security Commission's Review of security procedures and practices in the public service and your proposal to announce the resignation of Lord Diplock and the appointments of Lord Bridges and Lord Justice Griffiths.

I can understand your reluctance to make an oral statement in advance of publication of the White Paper. However, life must go on. There is a great deal of interest on our side of the House in this review and I believe that to announce its publication by Written Answer might suggest that the Government and the Opposition, particularly if I am to put down the Question, did not regard it as important.

I should be grateful, therefore, if you would agree to follow the usual practice and make a brief oral statement in advance of publication.

Michael

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP