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Security

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 August 1982

Dear Edward,

Lord Bridge tells me that, as Chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, you have written to him to say that the Security Commission is one of the "associated public bodies" on which the Committee is expected to keep an eye, and to ask him to submit a short paper on the remit and working arrangements of the Commission.

The Security Commission is not an "associated public body" of any Government Department, of a kind which would come within the Committee's remit. Although its members are appointed by the Prime Minister and its reports are submitted to the Prime Minister, it is an independent advisory body and Ministers are not answerable for its work or its findings (though they are of course answerable for the decisions taken by the Government as a consequence of those findings).

Given the nature of the Commission's responsibilities and the matters referred to above, I feel sure you will understand why it would not be appropriate for Lord Bridge to respond to your request.

I am, however, asking the Joint Head of the Civil Service, Sir Robert Armstrong, to let you have a short factual memorandum on the composition and terms of reference of the Commission.

Lawson
Mayant

The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

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This letter to Mr Du Cane has
been revised as you wished. If
you sign it, we will despatch
it if Lord Bridge is content with
the line taken.

WM

w/s



*gn/m
cument.*

10 DOWNING STREET

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and the matter referred to above

~~Given this and the nature of the Commission's responsibilities, I do not think that it would be appropriate for Lord Bridge to respond to your request.~~

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*for Lord Bridge to respond to
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The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.



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