

SUBJECT.
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CONFIDENTIAL



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Min of state, PCO.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

THE POLYGRAPH

The Prime Minister held a meeting this morning to discuss your minute of 10 February (A084/477) on the experimental scheme on the Polygraph. The Lord President, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Employment, the Attorney-General, the Minister of State Privy Council Office and you were present.

In discussion, Ministers noted that the activity so far had been confined to the Security Service and that the first involvement of GCHQ staff would be confined to limited and confidential testing of senior staff in London. The stage of extending the tests to less senior staff selected randomly at Cheltenham would not be reached for some months.

Ministers concluded that the experimental scheme should continue as previously announced, but it should not be extended to senior staff at GCHQ until there could be confidence that it would not distract them from dealing with the present problems over de-unionisation. Ministers should be consulted again on the timing of extension of the experimental scheme to staff chosen randomly at Cheltenham. Ministers should be given an agreed line to use in public on the progress and timetable of the experimental scheme.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to those who attended the meeting.

F-206

16 February 1984

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