

Ref. A084/608

MR BUTLER

The Polygraph

In your minute of 16 February recording the Prime Minister's meeting that day about the experimental scheme on the polygraph, you asked that Ministers should be given an agreed line to use in public on the progress and timetable of the experimental scheme.

2. The line proposed is as follows:

"The Security Commission recommended that a pilot scheme should be undertaken to test the feasibility of polygraph security screening in the intelligence and security agencies. Arrangements are proceeding for conducting such an experimental scheme in the Security Service and in GCHQ. It will take two years to complete. The results will then be evaluated and no decision will be taken on whether or not the polygraph should be introduced as part of security screening generally in the intelligence and security agencies until this has been done."

3. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Employment, the Attorney General and the Minister of State, Privy Council Office.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

22 February 1984

22 JAN 1984

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