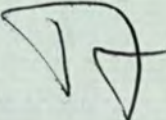


PRIME MINISTER

You will recall the dispute in July about the papers which may be presented to Select Committees. The Lord Privy Seal was charged with the task of exploiting the possibilities for amending the current doctrine that Select Committees may have access to virtually any papers of a nationalised industry. The attached note is his first shot in the campaign. What he is proposing is that the Government should suggest to the Liaison Committee that "policy" papers should be treated in the same way for the nationalised industries as for the Government. Select Committees do not have access to the latter.

Are you content with this general approach?

*Y. M. S.* 

2 August 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 August, 1984

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of the Lord Privy Seal's letter of 1 August to the Home Secretary about the rules and conventions governing the production of documents to Departmental Select Committees.

Subject to the views of colleagues, the Prime Minister is content with the general approach to this matter taken in the Lord Privy Seal's letter.

I am sending copies of this letter to Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet, to Mary Brown (Lord Gowrie's Office) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

DAVID BARCLAY

Charles Marshall, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office

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*[Handwritten signature]*