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cc Mr. Chace. free

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 September 1984

M9/84

Dear Leon,

DRUG ABUSE

I know that like me you are very concerned about the alarming trends in drug abuse which have recently come to the forefront of public attention. I know, too, that David Mellor is doing valuable work on this problem, through the inter-departmental group which he chairs.

You will I am sure have seen that there is a resolution on drug abuse down for debate at the Party Conference. The purpose of this letter is simply to stress that in my view we urgently need a positive, coherent and effective response to what has become widely felt and justifiable public concern. I think we need to examine carefully, but quickly, what can be done not just in the field of law and order, but also through determined action in schools, the health service and the social services.

I should find it extremely helpful to see as soon as possible an outline of the sort of statement which you and other Ministers concerned think we could make at Brighton, together with your assessment of present trends and counter-measures.

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I am sending copies of this letter to Geoffrey Howe,
Nigel Lawson, George Younger, Norman Fowler, Keith Joseph,
Douglas Hurd and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Y
Lawson
Younger

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan, QC, MP,



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister (3)

GR
for despatch per
with copies to
MA and JR.

Drugs

DWS
13/9

You wanted to write yourself in
order to keep up the momentum
in Departments.

I attach a draft letter to
the Home Secretary.

DWS
12/9