

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER

I suggest you conduct this meeting by working through Annex A-G of the Home Secretary's minute (at flag A), which set out the proposals under the relevant headings. The Policy Unit brief (Flag C) is arranged in the same order.

MEETING ON DRUGS MISUSE: TUESDAY, 4 JUNE

FEBB

4.6.

Tomorrow's meeting follows up your discussion on 9 May with the Home Secretary, David Mellor and John Patten. You asked that this second meeting should involve Cabinet Ministers, with Junior Ministers where appropriate. Apart from Mr. Mellor and Mr. Patten, Mr. Hayhoe is also coming because of his responsibilities for Customs and Excise. Wyn Roberts is standing in for the Welsh Secretary who is winding up in the Opposition Supply Day Debate. Mr. McKay is standing in for Mr. Younger, who will be flying to Scotland to meet Zhao Ziyang in Edinburgh.

The attached briefing consists of:-

- Flag A      The Home Secretary's note drawn up for this meeting. Attached to it is a run-down of proposals under consideration within David Mellor's Working Group.
- Flag B      The Home Secretary's note for the earlier May meeting.
- Flag C      The Policy Unit's comments on the proposals being considered in the Mellor Group.

You may also wish to have available:-

- Flag D      The Hansard from Questions on 23 May when legislation on forfeiture was raised twice.
- Flag E      The paper which has just arrived from Mr. Arberry and Dr. Mack, as promised during your visit to Suffolk House (I shall commission a draft reply from DHSS).

/Flag F



Flag F        A note of the main points raised in the discussion at Suffolk House last week. Something you particularly remarked upon was the complaint that Magistrates were sometimes ill-informed about the facilities in their locality to which drug users could be referred.

Flag G        The recent Home Affairs Committee Report on drugs misuse.

The meeting provides an opportunity for you

- (i) to make clear your personal commitment to tackling the drugs problem vigorously;
- (ii) to indicate your views about the direction in which the Working Group is going and to discuss this with Cabinet colleagues before the Working Group reports to H in July;
- (iii) to raise for discussion other matters not currently under discussion within the Working Group including forfeiture. The Home Secretary's note indicates that he stands ready to explain where matters now stand. You will wish to discuss timing, and the appropriate legislative vehicle;
- (iv) addiction to tranquilisers and sedatives (see page 4 of Hartley Booth's minute);
- (v) perhaps accommodation problems for addicts on the road to rehabilitation (something you discussed at Suffolk House).

/The resource



The resource implications of the proposals the Working Group is likely to come up with are indicated in the annexes to the Home Secretary's note at Flag A. At your earlier meeting you indicated that the key question here was one of priorities. The Government have a duty to ensure that the drugs issue is given the priority it deserves. This does not necessarily mean that more money is needed.

Mark Addison

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3 June 1985