



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000

PRIME MINISTER

METROPOLITAN POLICE MANPOWER

I have seen a copy of Douglas Hurd's minute of 22 October.

I strongly support the approach which Douglas proposes, with stress on dealing with requests from the police in an orderly fashion, and on securing value for money. Police manpower has increased by over 8,000 since 1979, so no-one can accuse us of failing to supply the resources needed to deliver our commitment to law and order. A good start has been made in encouraging Chief Constables to think in terms of the need to justify demands for additional resources in value for money terms, and it is essential that we should not lightly jeopardise this. The steps Douglas has already taken in response to the Commissioner's request seem to me to strike the right balance.

I am copying this minute to Willie Whitelaw, Douglas Hurd, George Younger, Tom King, John Biffen, Kenneth Baker, David Young and Norman Tebbit, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

N.L.

29 October 1985

Disagree
and

Police

Jan 83

Priny

