

PRIME MINISTER

30 October 1985

MEETING WITH HOME SECRETARY ON 30 OCTOBER 1985

The Police in London have the certainty of 600 extra during the next year. They are 300 below establishment, they will get 200 from restructuring and another 100 (50 civilians and 50 extra drugs enforcement officers). This, as you say, may be regarded by the public as too thin a blue line.

We support your suggestion that the police should be increased considerably in addition to this 600. As the Commissioner is now content with the Home Secretary's proposal that he justifies his request for larger numbers, and that evidence should be given explaining and supporting the request, we believe that the matter should be left until the Commissioner has put in his detailed claim for more officers.

We have already received some indications from local authorities that they have no wish to authorise extensive enlargement of their police establishment.

*DTScala*

pp HARTLEY BOOTH