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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 May 1985

Security Service

Following the statement on Bettaney this afternoon, the Prime Minister had a short discussion with the Home Secretary and Sir Brian Cubbon.

The Prime Minister said that, on reading the Security Commission's report in preparation for the statement, she had been struck by the seriousness of the criticisms of those responsible for the personnel management of Bettaney. She did not feel that these criticisms could be shrugged aside. She asked in particular to be informed what action had been taken in respect of Bettaney's staff management officer, who was criticised in para 6.7 of the Security Commission report.

The Prime Minister also said that she would like to follow up the report by a personal visit to the security service, accompanied by the Home Secretary, in about six weeks time or so. Could you please advise me when Sir Antony Duff has made sufficient progress on the measures to be taken to deal with the criticisms in the Security Commission report for a visit by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to be worthwhile.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Hugh Taylor, Esq.,
Home Office.