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PRIME MINISTER

I attach the draft of a letter to Lord Rothschild which emerged from this evening's discussion. If this material is to issue, we need to decide how it should be promulgated. The possibilities are :-

1. A letter from you to Lord Rothschild:

Advantage - a most authoritative statement.

Disadvantages - You are personally very identified with the statement.

Parliamentary row, though this might be a little if a copy of the letter was put in the Vote Office and it became public only after Parliament had risen tomorrow.

2. Private Secretary letter to Lord Rothschild:

Advantage - Its authoritative, but you are distanced a little.

Disadvantages - Same Parliamentary problem.

3. Press statement from No.10:

Advantage - Convenient and easy to manage

Disadvantage - Probably the course likely to maximise a Parliamentary row.

4. Treasury Solicitor letter to Lord Rothschild or his solicitors:

Advantage - A formal, legalistic approach, which

might help disguise the terse nature of the letter

Advantage - Might minimise Parliamentary row since it might be taken as a necessary legal step in making the information available.

Disadvantage - It might look a bit odd to the general public.

5. Arrange Written Parliamentary Question:

Advantage - Best calculated to satisfy Parliament, though it will not prevent demands (which we will resist) for an oral statement.

Disadvantage - It could not take place until Monday.

N.C.U.

N.L. Wicks

4 December 1986