

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY  
CONFIDENTIAL - POLICY



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16 OCT 1997

Dear John,

REFORM OF THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM LEGISLATION AND  
FUTURE OF EXCLUSION ORDERS

I am writing to check that the Prime Minister is content with the position we have reached on the proposed handling of the Home Secretary's forthcoming announcement about a consultation document early in the New Year and revoking all remaining exclusion orders.

The background was set out in the Home Secretary's minute to the Prime Minister of 6 October. Since then, Paul Cohen's letter of 7 October has led the Home Secretary to consider afresh the previous proposal for making the announcement in a press release rather than in Parliament. The Home Secretary concluded that, this close to the return of the Commons on 27 October, it would be right to hold the announcement over and make it by way of an Oral Statement as soon as possible thereafter. Indeed the Home Secretary would propose that he makes an Oral Statement on Monday 27 October.

The Home Secretary has discussed this proposal with Dr Mowlam. In her letter of 13 October (copy attached for ease of reference) Dr Mowlam expressed a preference for reverting to our original, lower key announcement. In discussion, the Home Secretary was able to point out that he planned to make his Oral Statement promptly on the Commons' return and that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would be able to refer to it, as she would want to do, in the debate on the EP Bill.

I have lodged the bid for a slot on 27 October with the President's office and it will be discussed with the business managers early next week. In the meantime, it would be helpful to know if the Prime Minister is content with the way this is emerging and if any other colleagues have comments.

I am sending a copy of this letter (without enclosure) to the Private Secretaries to members of IN, QFL, Mr Dewar and to Jan Polley.

Yours sincerely,  
Ken Slt.

K D SUTTON

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