

PRIME MINISTER

You have a constituency interested in scientology.

The ban is to be discussed in H. This joint paper from Messrs. Whitelaw and Jenkin is inconclusive. Despite the arguments against scientology, the Home Secretary does not wish to use immigration regulations as the vehicle singling out this religious group for a ban. Mr. Jenkin considers that any move to lift the ban would, on balance, be disadvantageous. Both recognise that the ban applied exclusively to scientologists is probably inequitable given the growth of other equally disturbing fringe religions.

I see little prospect of this indecisive paper leading to a decision to lift the ban. If you favour that move, it might be worth my writing around the members of the Committee to put your views on the record.

- Will leave it to the Chairman to let them know my views

*MAD*

We really cannot keep this ban unless we are ready publicly to say why and to support the conclusion with evidence.

14 November 1979

The question is not whether we 'approve' scientology or not, but what possible justification there is, this unique ban.

*MT*