



Rhodesia

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

The Bingham Report: A Further Inquiry
(C(79) 19)

BACKGROUND

The essential background is set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's paper. The arguments against a further inquiry are contained in paragraph 4. You will recall that your colleagues found great difficulty with the last Government's proposals when in Opposition and that the arrangements then suggested were torn to shreds in the House of Lords' debate in November. The Cabinet is unlikely to dissent from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's proposals.

HANDLING

2. You should call on the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to introduce his paper and then ask the Leader of the House and the Lord Chancellor to comment. Assuming the Cabinet supports the view of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary the only points on which decisions are called for are:-

- (a) the timing of Parliamentary statements;
- (b) arrangements for clearing its contents - it would suffice for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to clear this with you, the Lord Chancellor and the Chancellor of the Duchy;
- (c) arrangements for considering the DPP's conclusions on the Bingham Report referred to in paragraph 7 of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's paper. The special position of the Attorney General needs to be safeguarded here and it would be better if no specific conclusion on this point were recorded in the minutes. Nevertheless it would be helpful if the Attorney General could indicate his willingness to go along with the suggested arrangements.



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CONCLUSIONS

3. Subject to discussion you will wish to record:-

- (a) Acceptance of the advice contained in C(79) 19.
- (b) Agreement that the timing and contents of the necessary Parliamentary statements should be decided outside Cabinet by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in consultation with yourself and the Leaders of both Houses.

M.H.

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John Hunt

13th June 1979