PRIME MINISTER

CALCUTT REPORT

I am sorry to come back to you on this yet again, but the MOD are not covering themselves in glory. Having first said that they were going to postpone the publication of Calcutt until the week beginning 12 May, they now discover that the Lords Business Managers will not let them because of the Armed Forces Bill. Moreover, the Defence White Paper is being published on the Monday. They now want to go back to 7 May with a Statement by John Stanley in the absence of George Younger.

In these circumstances, do you want to take the matter up with the Lord President: essentially this would mean telling him that the Report would have to come out only a very short time before the Armed Forces Bill enters its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Personally, I think the Lords Business Managers are overdoing the objections to this, but I am not entirely sure the point is worth pressing.

Are you content that the Report should be published on 7 May, or do you wish to insist on the following week?

N Let it go ahead on 7 May
- unless the L.P. says otherwise
MH

Timothy Flesher

25 April 1986

(RAMAFX)

PRIME MINISTER

THE CALCUTT REPORT

You saw this minute from the MOD at the weekend. I mentioned then that the Lord President was going to comment on timing, but I understand that he is content, from his point of view, with 7 May. Mr. Younger is proposing to make an oral statement on publication day. You wished to discuss timing. Were there any particular points?

I will have word with the Lord President MT

Timothy Flesher

Prime Minister

I understand that due to the absence of the SofS in Saudi Arabia, the MOD would prefer to make the announcement the following week ie that beginning 12 May.

23 April 1986 Does this meet your views or do you still wish to speak to the Lord President

Yes MT

No MT

(DSG.46)

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