

PRIME MINISTER

CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR: 8 JANUARY

The Home Office have now provided us with detailed proposals for the topics to be covered at the Seminar, and how each should be tackled. The papers are at Flag A, but you do not need to look at them at this stage. You will wish however to ensure you are content with the general approach the Home Office suggest.

The key points are -

1. The Seminar will last from 4.30pm to 7pm, though if necessary it can go on until 7.30 (any later and we will lose Press coverage). The Seminar will be followed by drinks.  

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2. You will be in the chair. The Agenda contains four main items -
  - auto crime
  - residential burglary
  - violent crime
  - crime in the workplace.
3. As a result of your discussion the other day with the Home Secretary the profile of violent crime has been raised somewhat though the emphasis will continue to be on crimes against property. The Home Office briefing contains a speaking note for your opening remarks, together with notes for you to use in leading off the discussion on each of the four main agenda items. The briefing also identifies a number of objectives under each heading, designed to ensure that the representatives at the seminar commit themselves to action.

4. Eleven Departments will be involved with the Seminar and each will be fielding a Minister and an official. This will bring the total number up to just over 70, which really is the maximum. You may wish to have the Cabinet Ministers down to attend the Seminar sitting alongside you, together with Sir Brian Cubbon. The rest would be in the "audience". There would be no seating plan but lapel badges would be issued.

There are also a number of points for decision at this stage. The most important relates to Press coverage. The Home Office note with their proposals is at Flag A in the briefing. It will be important to generate as much interest in the Seminar as possible and the Home Office proposals look as if they should achieve that. Bernard and I agree that there is, however, not much point in allowing the photographers and cameras into No. 10 itself: they will get in the way at the beginning of the Seminar, and will not be needed to secure press interest in the story. Agree? *Yes*

You also need to decide whether you wish to be alongside the Home Secretary at the Press briefing after the Seminar. There is something to be said for the Home Secretary as the Minister responsible, taking this on at No. 12, while you join the Seminar participants for the drinks. You may feel, however, that both of you should be at the Press briefing. Which would you prefer? *I think the Home Secretary should do it at No. 12 - alone*

We have set aside an hour or so before the Seminar for briefing. I think it would be sensible to invite the Home Secretary and Sir Brian Cubbon to this. Agree? *Yes*

The Home Secretary sees some advantage in inviting a second TUC representative; they suggest Mr. Morris, Assistant Secretary at the TGWU, who has a special interest in violent crime. There is something to be said for this; it might also

be a helpful way of rebutting any criticism of bias in the invitations (we have invited 4 Conservative MPs, though only one in a Party capacity). Agree that Mr Morris be invited?

MEA

Yes no

MARK ADDISON

19 December 1985