From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

24 January 1986

Dear Mark,

PRIME MINISTER'S CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR

At the conclusion of the seminar, the Prime Minister said that a note of action points would be circulated to participants. I enclose a draft for this purpose, for the Prime Minister's consideration, which we have cleared with other departments. If the Prime Minister is content, you may care to circulate the note under cover of the attached draft letter with which is enclosed the names and addresses of all those who attended from outside Government.

I also attach a rather fuller note of the proceedings for your information, which has also been cleared with other departments, and which you might like to send to the Private Secretaries of those Ministers whose departments were represented at the seminar together with a copy of your letter and enclosure to the participants from outside Government.

Yours,

S W BOYS SMITH

Mark Addison, Esq

cc: Press Off.

NOTE OF PRIME MINISTER'S SEMINAR ON CRIME PREVENTION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 1986

Those present - see attached list.

Opening the seminar, the Prime Minister said that although crime prevention rarely made the headlines there was no doubt that it could be effective. Successful crime prevention required the active support of the entire community, and the purpose of the seminar was to consider how the organisations represented could contribute to new crime prevention measures. It was vital that such measures were practical and that they should be sustained. The Government would continue to support fully the police and criminal justice system in their efforts against crime but it was also important to ensure that members of the public, either as individuals or representatives of organisations, engaged in the prevention of crime.

Introductory Presentation - Sir Brian Cubbon

2. Sir Brian Cubbon outlined briefly the extent and nature of crime and the Government's response. There were some 10-12 million crimes last year. Crime was not accidental or inevitable, and because much crime was opportunistic, there was a clear role for crime prevention. The need was to make the environment as hostile to crime as it now is to disease and fire. The Government had taken a number of steps to help achieve this. The Home Office had set up its Crime Prevention Unit which stimulates and evaluates the effectiveness of new preventive initiatives; the Crime Prevention Centre at Stafford assists in these tasks and takes the lead in crime prevention training; the Home Office seeks to encourage crime prevention and advise on its best forms through substantial publicity campaigns such as the recent 'Magpies' television campaign; and the Home Office Standing Conference carries forward new initiatives at the national level. Crime prevention needed to be locally and specifically focussed and cost-effective; the Home Office's new scheme of local initiatives followed this approach. Crime prevention was the business of everyone and had to be a part of everyday activity.

3. The Prime Minister then turned to the first agenda item.

AUTOCRIME

Action

- British Standards Institution (BSI) and Motor Manufacturers will produce a performance based standard on car security to be published by Autumn 1986.

- Department of Transport will seek to have this standard adopted as an EC Directive.

- Motor insurers will consider security in rating vehicles for insurance and in the use of excesses on settlements.

- The Home Office and the Scottish Home and Health Department will give prominence to autocrime in their crime prevention publicity.

- Motor manufacturers will consider how they can inform the public about car security and whether car security might be included in car manuals.

- BL and Ford will consider etching identification numbers on the windows of new vehicles and what might be done at the manufacturing stage to protect in-car radio cassette players.

Key discussion points

4. The Prime Minister said there was a pressing need to reduce autocrime (theft of and from cars) because it constituted 25% of reported crime and cost the motoring public £270m last year. The motor manufacturers agreed to support the development of the new standard but said it would have to be applied throughout the European Community if UK manufacturers were not to be at a cost disadvantage and that the inclusion of security devices in cars as optional extras would be prohibitively expensive. In considering stronger glass a balance would need to be struck between increased security and the safety risk, for example if rescue services could not easily reach occupants trapped after an accident. It was noted that the insurance industry expected that their register of vehicles stolen and written-off would be in place within 6 months and that the ABI would explore relating the insurance rating and the use of excesses to the security of the vehicle.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Action

5. - The Association of British Insurers (ABI) will encourage its members to inform as widely as possible their policy-holders on the need and measures to protect their homes and possessions and to consider how incentives for improved domestic security can be created through changes in their commercial operations.

- ABI will launch a major crime prevention competition in November 1986.

- The Home Office Standing Conference will produce a package of advice on domestic security drawing on the BSI Guidelines "Security of Buildings against Crime: Part I: Dwellings".

- The BSI Guidelines should be disseminated widely by the Institution and kitemarked security products should be advertised as such by manufacturers.

- The National Housebuilding Council will sponsor all action research project to the special account of cost effective security measures in the design and construction of new private residential estates.

- The Department of the Environment Priority Estates Project will produce handbooks of best practice on design modifications to and good management of local authority estates, including estate security.

- The Department of the Environment will make available £50m from the Housing Investment Programme for 1986/87 to improve conditions on selected rundown local authority estates linked with new management initiatives.

- The British Gas Corporation and the Electricity Council will continue to seek to reduce the number of coin-operated gas and electricity meters.

Key discussion points

6. The Prime Minister stressed that action against residential burglary needed to be directed both to new and existing housing, had to address housing design, and had to include the dissemination of sound preventive advice to the public who had to be persuaded to take care of their property. The ABI said that their industry could encourage crime prevention through publicity, the imposition of excesses on settlements and the creation of a crime prevention competition. As the value of premises rose, and thereby the theft component in them, so the opportunities for offering incentives to policy-holders through reduced premiums and no claims bonuses would increase. The Association would encourage its members to consider the various ways in which incentives might be created.

7. On the BSI Guidelines for home security it was noted that their full implementation would cost about £450 for a three bedroom house; this pointed to the need for the production of a cheaper advisory package based on the Guidelines. The NHBC project would consider, among other things, what security could be offered on a rising scale of £100, £150, £200 etc per home and the NHBC suggested that more secure new homes required the creation of demand from home buyers and this underlined the importance of publicity. The Home Office agreed to produce a low cost security package. The Housebuilders Federation agreed that demand for better inherent security was vital and considered that women were a particularly important target audience for crime prevention publicity.

8. The Royal Institute of British Architects emphasised the importance of design in preventing crime and the need to educate architectural students and practitioners in this. It was, however, difficult to persuade clients to spend money on security. The Priority Estates Project demonstrated that crime on local authority estates could be reduced through improvements in their design and management for quite small expenditure on each estate. Since there were many such estates, the problem nationally was formidable. The Secretary of State for the Environment said that £6m from the Urban Programme was already being applied to crime prevention projects and that £50m from the Housing Investment Programme was being made available in 1986/87 for work on problem estates. The requirement for success was the involvement of residents in estate management. It was noted that in Strathclyde some home helps are trained to offer crime prevention advice to the elderly and disabled and it was suggested that such schemes might be extended to other parts of the country and to other public service groups who make home visits.

9. On the phasing out of coin operated gas and electricity meters, the British Gas Corporation and the Electricity Council explained that efforts were being made to reduce the number of prepayment meters. Progress was only modest because token operated meters were expensive and several classes of user did not wish to see coin-operated meters discontinued, particularly those in financial hardship, those in multi-occupancy dwellings and those accustomed to meter rebates.

VIOLENT CRIME

Action

10.
- The Home Office will consider the production of an advisory publicity package for the public, and particularly women, on practical steps they can take to reduce the likelihood of being attacked and on how to respond in the event of an attack.

- The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers will produce best practice notes by summer 1986 on police procedures and techniques for dealing with victims of rape and attack, with special attention to the recent report of the Women's National Commission on Violence against Women.

- The Home Office Standing Conference will produce an advisory package of preventive techniques to protect commercial concerns such as banks, building societies and sub-post offices.

- The Department of Transport and London Regional Transport will conduct urgently a study of crime, including violence to passengers and staff, on the underground.

- The Home Office Standing Conference or the Health and Safety Executive will join with the licensed trade to devise best practice on measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour associated with licensed premises.

- Studies on violence to staff including particularly Road Transport and NHS staff will be completed urgently and their results disseminated.

Key discussion points

11. The Prime Minister said that of all the areas of violent crime listed on the agenda, violence to the general public was of the most concern and the urgent need was to consider what sort of preventive advice could be offered. The Home Secretary noted that it was important that the advice issued should be practical but neither patronising nor alarmist. Thought should be given to the teaching in schools of self-defence techniques and it was noted that the Metropolitan Police were producing a handbook on self-defence for schools, the elderly, and women's groups. On violent crime associated with public transport, a number of measures were

considered to be effective: on buses - 2-way radios, protective screens, and panic alarms. The possibility of driver collection of exact fares only was also considered. For the Underground, Scottish experience suggested that TV surveillance reduced crime. On violent crime against employees, it was agreed that there was a need to get more information about the scale and nature of the problem, to get staff trained and involved in preventive measures, and to monitor carefully the effectiveness of these measures. A number of organisations, particularly the CBI and TUC, recognised the need to move away from the payment of wages by cash, and it was considered that the provisions of the Wages Bill would help achieve this. On violence associated with licensed premises, Allied Lyons Ltd thought that a relaxation of the licensing hours would reduce the violence associated with public houses. Other measures were better pub design, good liaison with local police, and more careful staff training and selection.

CRIME AT THE WORKPLACE

Action

12. - Health departments will ensure that the security strategies devised by health authorities are operating satisfactorily, and that full account is taken of the findings of the HSE's Group on violence to NHS staff.

- Health departments will work with the National Health Training Authority to devise crime prevention training for NHS staff.

- The Home Office will consider whether an advisory package or security manual on crime prevention similar to that prepared for health authorities should be prepared for other public services.

- The Home Office will consider with the retail trade and other interested groups, measures to protect shops from theft and the crime problems associated with shopping centres.

- The Department of Education and Science will sponsor a research study on the nature and extent of wilful damage to buildings and property and on cost effective and practical solutions.

- The Department of Education and Science with selected local authorities will gather, collate and disseminate examples of good crime prevention practice in schools.

Key discussion points

13. On security in the National Health Service, the DHSS said that guidance on security had been issued to health authorities 2 years ago and that post-Griffiths management changes had already helped to reduce crime in hospitals. Accident Departments of hospitals were the particular focus of violence in hospitals and much was alcohol related. On shop crime, the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops (APTS) considered that the

anti-theft groups of shopkeepers, of which there were now some 200 across the country, were effective and should be extended. There was a need to educate the public that stealing from a shop was as unacceptable as stealing from a person. The British Retailers Association (BRA) noted that Guidelines for the Training of Store Detectives which contained references to crime prevention and had been prepared by the APTS, BRA and the International Professional Security Association and that similar guidance was being prepared for sales staff and managers. A number of preventive measures were suggested for the reduction of crime in schools: intruder alarm systems; secure areas; external lighting; open access to the local community. Schools are particularly vulnerable to theft because of the attractive equipment they hold, such as video recorders and musical equipment. The extent of crime in schools was also thought to be affected by their design: pre-1900 schools appeared to be more secure than more recent schools which are layed out more openly and widely. More generally, it was considered that the pupils of schools which rewarded success, had high standards and promoted respect for people and property, were less likely to commit crime.

14. Concluding the meeting the Prime Minster thanked participants for taking part in the seminar and for their interest and involvement in crime prevention. A note of action points would be circulated and the Home Secretary would hold a follow-up seminar in the summer to take stock of progress and report to her.

CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chief Constable S. E. Bailey, C.B.E., Q.P.M.,
Northumbria Police and President of ACPO

Mr. R. C. W. Bardell,
Chief Executive, Association of British Insurers.

Mr. J. Telford Beasley,
Chairman and Managing Director, London Buses.

Sir Terence Beckett, C.B.E.,
Director General, Confederation of British Industry.

Professor A. Bottoms,
Criminology Institute.

Chief Constable J. M. Boyd, Q.P.M.,
Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

Mr. Miles Lucas Breeden,
Chairman, Wilmot-Breeden Limited.

Mr. A. Buchan,
Assistant Director of Education, Borough of Sunderland.

Mr. J. Burn,
Headmaster, Longbenton Community High School.

Mr. Cecil Burrows,
Director and General Manager, Cornhill Insurance Group.

Mr. R. Calderwood, LL.B.,
Chief Executive, Strathclyde Regional Council.

The Rt. Hon. Mark Carlisle, Q.C., M.P.

Mr. F. B. Corby,
Chief Executive, Prudential Corporation, plc.

Mr. P. G. Crossland,
Managing Director, Racal-Chubb, Ltd.

Mr. J. D. S. Curtis,
Director, British National Insurance Company Ltd.

Sir Edward Gardner, Q.C., M.P.
Chairman, Home Affairs Select Committee.

Mr. J. Greenwell,
Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council and
Honorary Secretary of SOLACE.

Mr. A. Growcott,
District General Manager, Cheshire Health Authority.

Mr. G. M. Hornsby,
Assistant Secretary, British Retailers Association.

Mr. R. Horrocks, C.B.E.,
Group Chief Executive - Cars, BL plc

Mr. A. A. Horsford,
Chief Executive, Royal Insurance Company Ltd.

Mr. I. Kelsall, O.B.E.,
Director, Confederation of British Industry, Wales.

Councillor Jack Layden,
Chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Councillor John R. Lovill, C.B.E., D.L.,
Chairman of the Exeuctive Council, Association of County Councils.

Councillor J. Morgan, O.B.E.,
Chairman, Association of District Councils.

Sir Kenneth Newman, Q.P.M.,
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

The Baroness Phillips, J.P.,
Director General, Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops.

Mr. A. Plumpton, C.B.E.,
Deputy Chairman, The Electricity Council

Ms. Anne Power

Mr. G. C. Pye,
President, House-builders Federation.

Chief Superintendent N. B. E. Ridd,
Director, Home Office Crime Prevention Centre.

Mr. L. A.R. Rolland,
President, Royal Institute of British Architects.

Sir Denis Rooke, C.B.E.,
Chairman, British Gas Corporation.

Mr. S. H. A. Shaw, J.P.,
Chairman, Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority.

Councillor Mrs. Lydia Simmons,
National Consumer Council.

Mr. D. G. Spickernell, C.B.,
Director General, British Standards Institution.

Ms. Vivien Stern,
Director, NACRO

Mr. A. W. Tait,
Chairman, National Housebuilding Council.

Mr. J. R. N. Thompson,
Corporate Director, Allied Breweries Ltd.

Mr. S. Toy,
Chairman and Managing Director, Ford Motor Company Ltd.

Chief Superintendent T. Wagstaff,
Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard.

Mr. John Wheeler, J.P., M.P.,
Director General, British Security Industry Association Ltd.

Mr. Norman Willis,
General Secretary, Trades Union Congress.

Mr. D. B. J. Wolpert,
Chief Education Architect, Avon County Council.

MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS

10 Downing Street	Prime Minister Mr Mark Addison Mr Hartley Booth
Department of Trade & Industry	Mr Michael Howard, MP Sir Brian Hayes
Home Office	Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP Mr. Giles Shaw, MP Sir Brian Cubbon Mr. N.C. Abbott Mr. K.H. Heal

Department of Education & Science	Mr. Christopher Patten, MP Mr Walter Ulrich
Department of Energy	Mr. Alastair Goodlad, MP Mr. John Guinness
Scottish Office	? Rt. Hon. ~~George Younger~~ Lifkind, MP Mr. William Reid CB
Welsh Office	Rt. Hon. Nicholas Edwards, MP, Mr John Davies
Department of Health & Social Security	Mr. Ray Whitney, MP Sir Kenneth Stowe
Department of Transport	Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP Mr. William Knighton
Department of the Environment	Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP Mr. Terence Heiser
Northern Ireland Office	Mr. Nicholas Scott, MP Mr. Anthony Brennan
Department of Employment	? ~~Mr. Peter Bottomley, MP~~ Ian Lang MP Mr. John Rimmington (Director General, HSE)

FILE NUMBER .....

DRAFT LETTER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE .....

TO	ENCLOSURES	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
Participants in the Prime Minister's Crime Prevention Seminar from outside Government (see attached list)	Note of action agreed	hcc. PS/SofS Trade and Ind PS/Home Secretary PS/SofS Education and Sc PS/SofS Energy PS/SofS Scotland PS/SofS Wales PS/SofS DHSS PS/SofS Transport PS/SofS Environment PS/SofS Northern Ireland PS/SofS Employment
(FULL POSTAL ADDRESS)		(FULL ADDRESSES, IF NECESSARY)

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY Mark Addison

(NAME OF SIGNATORY)

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for taking part in the ~~seminar~~ meeting on crime prevention which she chaired on Wednesday, 8 January.

The Prime Minister was greatly encouraged by the ~~seminar~~ meeting which ~~demonstrated that~~ showed how many opportunities already exist for reducing the opportunities for crime and that there is much scope for imaginative developments in the future. I attach for your information a note setting out the points for action agreed at the ~~seminar~~ meeting. The Prime Minister hopes that ~~the agreed action~~ these points will ~~now be carried forward with commitment~~ be pursued vigorously in the months ahead. The follow up ~~seminar~~ meeting which the Home Secretary is to chair during the summer will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress, and the PM will continue to keep in close touch with the work.

(RAMAEA)

H.O. EST. 112

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT

Mr S E Bailey CBE QPM
Chief Constable
President ACPO
Northumbria Police
PONTELAND
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE20 OBL

Mr R C W Bardell
Chief Executive
Association of British Insurers
Aldermary House
Queen Street
LONDON
EC4N 1TT

Mr J Telford Beasley
Chairman
London Buses Limited
55 Broadway
LONDON
SW1

Sir Terence Beckett
Director General
CBI
Centre Point
New Oxford Street
LONDON
WC1

Professor A Bottoms
Professor of Criminology
Institute of Criminology
7 West Road
CAMBRIDGE

Mr J M Boyd QPM
Chief Constable
Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
Loreburn Street
DUMFRIES
DG1 1HP

Mr Miles Lucas Breedon
Chairman
Wilmot-Breedon Limited
Ford House Lane
BIRMINGHAM
B30 3BW

Mr A Buchan
Assistant Director of Education
Education Department
PO Box 101
Town Hall and Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND
SP2 7DN

MR.

Mr J Burn JP BSc MEd
Longbenton Highschool
Hailsham Avenue
LONGBENTON
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE12 8ER

Mr C G Burrows
General Manager
Cornhill Insurance PLC
32 Cornhill
LONDON
EC3V 3LJ

Mr R Calderwood LLB
Chief Executive
Strathclyde Regional Council
Strathclyde House
20 India Street
Charing Cross
GLASGOW
G2 4PF

The Rt Hon Mark Carlisle QC MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A OAA

Mr F B Corby
Chief Executive
Prudential Assurance Company Limited
Holborn Bars
LONDON
EC1N 2NH

Mr P G Crossland
Managing Director
Racal-Chubb Limited
Manor House
Manor Lane
FELTHAM
Middlesex

Mr J D S Curtis
Director
British National Insurance Company Ltd
British National House
Harlands Road
HAYWARDS HEATH
West Sussex
RH1 1TD

Sir Edward Gardner QC MP
Chairman
Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A OAA

E.R.

Mr J Greenwell
Hon Secretary
SOLACE
County Hall
NORTHAMPTON
NN1 1DN

Mr A Growcott MA DSA AHA
District General Manager, Cheshire Health Authority
PO Box 41
Lightfoot Street
CHESTER
CH2 3HC

Mr G Hornsby
Assistant Secretary
British Retailers Association
Commonwealth House
19 New Oxford Street
LONDON
WC1

Mr R Horrocks CBE
Group Chief Executive
BL Cars
106 Oxford Road
UXBRIDGE
UB8 1EH

Mr A A Horsford
Chief Executive
Royal Insurance Company Limited
1 Cornhill
LONDON
EC3V 3QR

Mr I Kelsall OBE
Director
CBI Wales
Pearl Assurance House
Greyfriars Road
CARDIFF
CF1 3AG

Councillor Jack Layden
Chairman
Association of Metropolitan Authorities
36 Old Queen Street
LONDON
SW1H 9JE

Councillor John R Lovill CBE DL
Chairman
Executive Council
Association of County Councils
66a Eaton Square
LONDON
SW1W 9BH

E.R.

Councillor J Morgan OBE
Chairman
Association of District Councils
9 Buckingham Gate
LONDON
SW1E 6LE

Sir Kenneth Newman QPM
Commissioner
Metropolitan Police
New Scotland Yard
LONDON
SW1H OBG

The Baroness Phillips JP
Director General
Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops
303 Grand Buildings
Trafalgar Square
LONDON
WC2

Mr A Plumpton CBE
Deputy Chairman
The Electricity Council
30 Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4RD

Ms Anne Power MBE
64 Hamilton Park West
LONDON
N5 1AB

Mr G C Pye
President
Housebuilders' Federation
82 New Cavendish Street
LONDOn W1M 8AD

Chief Superintendent Brian Ridd
Director
Home Office Crime Prevention Centre
Police Headquarters
Cannock Road
STAFFORD
ST17 OQG

Mr L A L Rolland
President
Royal Institute of British Architects
66 Portland Place
LONDON
W1

E.R.

Sir Denis Rooke CBE
Chairman
British Gas Corporation
Rivermill House
152 Grosvenor Road
LONDON
SW1

Mr S H A Shaw JP LIB FHA FCIS
Chairman
Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority
117 Suttons Lane
HORNCHURCH
Essex
RM12 6RS

Councillor Mrs Lydia Simmons
Vice Chairman
National Consumer Council
18 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AA

Mr D G Spickernell CB
Director General
British Standards Institute
2 Park Street
LONDON
W1

Ms Vivien Stern
Director
NACRO
169 Clapham Road
LONDON
SW9 OPU

Mr A W Tait
Chairman
National Housebuilding Council
58 Portland Place
LONDON
W1N 4BU

Mr J R N Thompson
Director
Allied-Lyons Limited
107 Station Street
Burton-upon-Trent
Staffordshire

Mr S Toy
Chief Executive
Ford Motor Company Limited
Eagle Way
BRENTWOOD
Essex

L.R.

Chief Superintendent T Wagstaff
Metropolitan Police
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
SW1

Mr John Wheeler JP MP
Director General
British Security Industry Association
68 St James Street
LONDON
SW1

Mr Norman Willis
General Secretary
TUC
Great Russell Street
LONDON
WC1

Mr D B J Wolpert
Chief Architect
Avon County Council
PO Box 57
Avon House North
St James Barton
BRISTOL
BS99 7EB