

PRIME MINISTER

Security Commission

You may recall that following your answer to him during Questions yesterday, David Owen commented to the Home Secretary that you did not accurately record the terms of reference of the Security Commission. Copies of what you said and what he said are attached. The terms of reference are as follows:

"If so requested by the Prime Minister to investigate and to report upon the circumstances in which a breach of security is known to have occurred in the public service, and upon any related failure of departmental security arrangements or neglect of duty; and, in the light of any such investigation, to advise whether any change in security arrangements is necessary or desirable."

As you will see, Dr. Owen is wrong. He refers in his remarks to Mr. Brittan to a "breach of intelligence". It is difficult to tell what he means by that but it is clear that you are on safe ground.

TR

2 May 1984