

PRIME MINISTER

CF

BF 27/3 pl.

MEET 25/3

H Committee: Drugs Abuse

H Committee meet on Monday to discuss the interim report of the Ministerial Group on Drugs Misuse. You had a word today with Hartley Booth about this, and his note is attached. Policy Unit advice is that the Ministerial Group should be encouraged to consider new penalties for drug dealers.

Kenneth Clarke, in his Conference speech last year on drugs abuse, committed the Government to introducing legislation to provide for the confiscation of the proceeds of crime. This is the change the Policy Unit have in mind. I have checked with the Home Office, and the Home Secretary's aim is to introduce legislation, probably in the Criminal Justice Bill for 1986/87, though it may be possible to move sooner. They will soon be bringing the matter to H.

This Government commitment clearly goes beyond the scope of the discussions in the drugs Group, though it has particular relevance to the Group's area of concern. It will be important to ensure, in presenting Government policy on drugs abuse, that the special relevance of these new sentencing provisions are emphasised.

Content therefore that there is no need to speak to the Lord President on Monday morning, but that I should note the appropriate point on presentation after H have discussed?

Mark Addison

Yes and

Home office reverts with, so  
answer this minute.

29/3

22 March, 1985.